



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO.1

TACTICAL CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT

SOG #
125-08

APPROVED: E. James Cole, Chief San Juan Island EMS

ISSUED
2/27/2008

PURPOSE: To provide guidance to department members regarding the appropriate use of radio channels for incident response and on-scene communications.

GUIDELINE: It shall be the policy of this Department that on scene radio communications will be conducted on a "tactical" channel when responding with an island fire agency.

Numerous radio frequencies are available for use by this Department. Under normal conditions, Dispatch will simultaneously transmit response assignments and updates on both EMS and appropriate fire transmitters. Responding Department units will communicate with dispatch via the EMS frequency. Unless otherwise directed by Incident Command, on scene radio communications between apparatus, crews, Incident Command and allied agencies shall occur via the use of a tactical channel as below.

The standard channel assignments are as follows:

ACTIVITY	RADIO CHANNEL
Contact with Dispatch	EMS Frequency
On Scene Communications	Tac 3
Traffic Control	Tac 4

EXAMPLE: A structure fire response.

- Dispatch pages on EMS frequency. "Fire District 3, San Juan EMS, structure fire, 1084 Treeline Drive, cross street is Portland Fair Road."
- Each responding unit advises Dispatch of their response on their frequency. "San Juan, Aid 31 responding with three."
- The first arriving fire unit transmits a "Report of Conditions" on either North or South. Lieutenant 32 on South: "San Juan, Lieutenant 32 on scene, smoke and flames showing from an attic vent. Establishing Treeline Command." Dispatch will repeat the message on North and South.
- All units notify Dispatch of their arrival on EMS frequency and immediately switch to a tactical channel. "San Juan, Aid 31 arriving Treeline Drive. Switching to Tac 3." Dispatch will repeat the message on EMS frequency.
- On scene communications are conducted on a tactical channel. On Tac Channel 3: "Treeline Command Aid 31 is on scene awaiting instructions."
- Safety messages are transmitted on the tactical channel and repeated on appropriate fire and aid channels. On Tac Channel 3: "Treeline Command to all units, I have a report of multiple firearms and ammunition in a room on Side Charlie." Command then makes the same report on appropriate fire channels and Aid. Dispatch repeats the report.
- All units return to EMS frequency when released from the scene. On EMS: "San Juan, Aid 31, released from the scene. Returning to quarters." Dispatch repeats the message on EMS frequency.

All EMS units and personnel should monitor both EMS frequency and Tac 3, but be ready to respond on Tac 3 or 4 to command's requests.