

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FIRE and RESCUE ASSOCIATION	NUMBER: 1004
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	PAGE 1 of 2
SUBJECT: Assignment of Radio Channels	EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/26/2011
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PURPOSE: This establishes the process for assignment of radio channels to conduct emergency and non-emergency operations.

BACKGROUND: Assignment of alternate channels had to be requested by the incident commander under the low band radio system

DEFINITIONS:

Command Channel Channel used by Command for communications outside of operational needs (i.e, request from the Dispatch)

Incident Channel The primary channel of incident operations as well as contact with Dispatch.

Operational Channel A secondary channel assigned to an incident for larger tasks RIT, Rescue, Water Supply, Helicopter LZ, Staging, etc

Primary Dispatch Channel Channel used to dispatch calls only.

Primary Response Channel Channel used for incident traffic of all routine call types.

POLICY:

At the request of a responding chief officer, and incident commander or at the discretion of the Dispatcher, an incident channel or incident command channel will be assigned to an incident. Additional channels will be assigned automatically when necessary.

When an incident channel is assigned to an incident, an incident commander must be established to coordinate communication on that channel. If the channel is assigned prior to arrival of units, an incident commander shall be identified upon arrival on the scene.

Additional operational channels may be requested by the incident commander. These channels will be assigned at the discretion of the Dispatcher on an as-available basis. If one of the operational channels is needed for another incident, the recall of that channel will be coordinated with the incident commander. An announcement will be made on the recalled channel telling units to switch their traffic back to the original incident channel.

Call types that will remain on the Primary Response Channel are E.M.S. calls, Single Engine response (i.e. Brush Fire, Vehicle Fire, Hazard Calls, simple MVA)

Call types that will be assigned an Incident Channel are Structure Fires, MVA with entrapment, or any call with three or more companies responding.

Incident and operational channels shall be identified in accordance with the standardized configuration listed below.

Channel	Frequency	Function
A	14 Alpha	Main Dispatch Channel
B	14 Bravo	Primary Response Channel
C	14 Charlie	Incident 1
D	14 Delta	Incident 2
E	14 Echo	Incident 3
F	14 Foxtrot	Incident 4
G	14 Golf	Water Supply Channel
H	14Hotel	Fauquier Hospital
I	14 India	Helicopter LZ Channel
J	14 Juliet	Special Events Channel
K	14 Kilo	Joint Public Safety
L	14 Lima	Training
M	14 Mike	Mutual Aid w/Fauq. & Cul.
N	14 November	Talk Around Channel
O	14 Oscar	Talk Around Channel
P	14 Papa	Fauquier Dispatch Channel
Q	14 Quebec	Culpeper Reg. Hospital
R	14 Romeo	Warren Mem. Hospital

During periods when an operational channel is assigned to an incident, all communications with the Dispatcher shall be referred through the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will contact the Dispatcher on the main incident channel. During times when multiple operational channels are being utilized, the Dispatcher will notify the Incident Commander that the channel will not be monitored and to make any request on the primary response channel.