



CENTRAL ZONE OPERATIONS

ALPINE - BARONA - EL CAJON - LAKESIDE - LA MESA - LEMON GROVE
SAN MIGUEL - SANTEE - SYCUAN - VIEJAS
BONITA - HEARTLAND DISPATCH

D-2.6 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

PURPOSE

Continuity and consistency in the dispatching process is of paramount importance to our cooperators, member agencies, their field personnel, and their Fire Chiefs. As such, there shall be prescribed formats for dispatches, cancellations, and other announcements, and many other routine radio messages. Within those messages, and for routine acknowledgements and other traffic, there shall be standardized clear text terminology and format.

POLICY

Standardized radio communications procedures shall be used for communications between Field Units or Dispatch.

PROCEDURE

- All field traffic directed to Central Dispatch will be prefaced with "Central", i.e., "*Central, Engine 13*".
- All radio traffic directed to field units from Central Dispatch will be suffixed with "Central", i.e., "*Engine 13, Central.*" - All acknowledgements directed to field units from Central Dispatch, will acknowledge the field unit, i.e., "*Copy Engine 13,*" or "*Central copies Engine 13*".
- Any unit-to-unit traffic shall be identified by the unit being called given first, i.e., If Engine 3 is calling Engine 14, It would be done so by saying "*Engine 14, Engine 3*".
- All communications to apparatus are presumed to be directed to the apparatus CAPTAIN. The CAPTAIN may designate other personnel to answer on their behalf.
- Communications between personnel on units should identify the unit ID followed by the rank (ENGINEER, FIREFIGHTER X). Firefighter's last name should be included when more than one firefighter is staffing the apparatus.

Example: "Engine 12 ENGINEER from FIREFIGHTER SMITH, reduce pressure."

- ICS designators supersede rank identifiers. ICS designators examples include: Command, Interior, Roof, Staging, Base, Division x, Safety, etc.
- First names of personnel may not be used as a substitute for the radio identifier.



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Radio traffic intended for Central Dispatch that is not prefaced with "Central" may not be recognized as such, and in turn, not receive a response. Many activities can be taking place within the communications center that may not be readily apparent to field units, and the dispatchers must do some "screening" of radio traffic.

Dispatchers and fire personnel must always be professional on the radio. Proper radio protocol and practices shall always be used; there is no place for casual conduct, verbiage, or informality on the radio. FCC rules and regulations, good radio practice, and professionalism demand the same standard of conduct on this as on any radio frequency. Many citizens, the news media, and most of our fire agencies monitor the radio on a continuous basis. The use of first names in lieu of authorized radio identifiers is also prohibited on all our channels by this policy as well as FCC rules.