

Due to increased call volumes of our member departments, it has become paramount to reduce the amount of casual and non-essential radio transmissions that occur on county frequencies during day to day operations. Each member department is entitled to an equal amount of radio air time and attention from the dispatch center to safely and efficiently mitigate their emergency incidents. Since low band frequencies are primarily registered with the FCC to the county the following policy shall be strictly enforced.

Effective ?????, 01, 2009, the following radio classifications shall be permitted to operate on low band channels:

1. Fire Department Line Officers will be allotted to meet the following criteria:
 - a. Ten line officer call signs will be allotted per department.
 - b. There will be one line officer call sign allotted per station. (1 station = 1 additional line officer / 5 stations = 5 additional line officers)
 - c. There will be 5 additional line officer call signs for departments that employ career personnel.
2. Existing department apparatus that are registered in the CAD dispatch program and any new apparatus that has been authorized by the County Radio Committee to be added to the CAD dispatch program.
3. Medical Line Officers for independent ambulance departments only shall not exceed more than 5 (change at request of M543) county approved radio designations per state licensed transport ambulance. (1 ambulance = 5 medic cars, 2 ambulances = 10 medic cars etc..). Currently, East Windsor Ambulance, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corporation, and the Stafford Ambulance Association are the only independent ambulance departments operating in the county.
4. Fire Marshals.
5. Mutual aid units (county and non-county)

The following radio classifications are no longer permitted to operate on low band channels:

1. Fire Police units.
2. Medic Car (Medical Line Officers) that are operating under Fire Department run ambulance services.

Departments that wish to continue using these classifications or that wish to implement them are required to use alternate frequencies that are licensed to their individual department or community and that do not interfere with any portion of the counties low band or UHF radio system. The county radio system shall consist of any low band or UHF radio frequency that is primarily licensed in the name of Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service.

It is further recommended that departments refrain from using the county radio system for the following:

- Routinely taking apparatus in and out of service.
- Departments that are drilling when there is no change in their dispatching procedures. A landline call should be made to advise the dispatch center of any temporary change in procedure. Long term changes should be made in writing by the Chief of service to the Operations Director of the dispatch center.
- Instructing ambulances to back in the driveway for medical calls and instructing the EMS crew on what equipment to bring into the house.
- Enroute to RGH with one BLS. (When ambulances are dispatched to medical calls without a paramedic, it is implied that the ambulance will transport the one patient you were sent for and it is implied that it will be BLS when there was no paramedic dispatched.)
- Chiefs of service are requested to develop standard response procedures for their members and apparatus. The effective preplanning of the proper order and response of personnel and apparatus to emergencies should prevent the unnecessary management of the resources over the air while responding to emergencies.
- The use of the term "**medic**" when requesting an ALS unit. Simply state that you need an ALS unit, either designated by run card or by specific ALS service.

These changes are necessary to allow all member departments an equal amount of radio air time to safely and efficiently mitigate their emergency. We appreciate your cooperation with enforcing this policy within your department.

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