

Assignment of Tactical Channels

* If unable to contact Communications using a tactical channel, field personnel should use the dispatch channel as a means to establish communications (safe channel)

EMS Incidents (other than MVA's and fire related incidents)

All incidents should be dispatched using F1 (Rescue Dispatch – Accomack) or F2 (Rescue Dispatch – Northampton).

Monitors and apparatus will remain on their dispatch channel for the duration of the incident.

If needed or requested (by the Communications Officer or OIC), a tactical channel may be assigned. If a tactical channel is assigned, the tactical channel of the zone the incident is occurring in should be used (F3, F5, F7, F9). If this channel is unavailable, F11 and then F12 should be used. An additional option is to use an adjacent zone's tactical channel (F3, F5, F7, F9).

Fire Incidents/MVA's/Hazardous-Material Incidents

All incidents should be dispatched using F1 (Rescue Dispatch – Accomack) or F2 (Rescue Dispatch – Northampton).

Monitors and apparatus will not use F1 or F2 to contact Communications (unless they are unable to contact using their assigned tactical channels).

Monitors and apparatus should use the pre-assigned repeater tactical channel (based on zone) for communications during an incident. EMS apparatus transporting to a hospital will utilize Rescue Dispatch for communications once leaving the incident scene (example – enroute to hospital, at the hospital, clear hospital, and in quarters).

Pre-assigned repeater tactical channels are as follows:

F3 – North Accomack Fire Operations – Incidents Occurring in Stations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 20 districts

F5 – Central Accomack Fire Operations – Incidents Occurring in Stations 7, 8, 9, 18, and 21

F7 – South Accomack Fire Operations – Incidents Occurring in Stations 10, 11, and 12 districts

F9 – Northampton Fire Operations – Incidents Occurring in all Northampton stations districts

Multiple incidents occurring in the same zone will be assigned the same repeater tactical channel, unless the Communications Officer assigns or Incident Commander requests a separate channel for a specific incident. If a separate tactical channel is needed, F11 and then F12 should be used. An additional option is to use an adjacent zone's tactical channel (F3, F5, F7, F9).

The Incident Commander retains the authority to utilize talk-around tactical channels as needed (F4, F6, F8, F10).

Communications – Other

The Communications Officer shall use the simul-selecting on a very limited basis. However, the following messages shall be broadcast on the dispatch channel and assigned tactical channel (using the simul-cast feature):

- The initial on-scene report of the first arriving monitor or apparatus
- Any reduction in response or cancellation
- Any other information requested to be broadcast on both channels by the incident commander

Communications to and from the 911 Center on the dispatch channels will use the radio designation of RESCUE. Communications to and from the 911 Center on tactical channels will use the radio designation CENTRAL.