

Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association
FIRE OPERATIONS MANUAL
Chapter 11 – Appendix E

POLICY ON
PARAMEDIC AMBULANCE
USE OF
MONTEREY COUNTY FIRE FREQUENCIES

GOAL: The goal of this policy is to enhance coordination and to facilitate communications between paramedic ambulances and fire resources in their response and handling of emergencies involving both disciplines by authorizing use of fire frequencies by the County's Paramedic Ambulance Providers.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Monterey County Fire Chief's Association to authorize the County's Paramedic Ambulance Provider(s) to utilize the various fire frequencies licensed in our County under specific conditions and guidelines. All written requests for frequency use shall be directed to the Monterey County Fire Chief's Association.

CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES:

1. The County's Paramedic Ambulance Provider(s) shall commit to and communicate to its personnel that use of these frequencies is permissive and subject to control by the Monterey County Fire Chief's Association and that strict adherence to these guidelines is required.
2. All use of fire frequencies will be in accordance with the Incident Command System and the Monterey County Fire Chief's Associations Operations Manual, Section 11- Communications.
3. Prior to written final authorization, all ambulances must first be properly equipped with mobile radios that have the capability of utilizing CALCORD and the following repeated command frequencies:
 - a. Red (Tones 2, 3, 4 and 5)
 - b. Gold (Tones 2, 3 and 4)
 - c. Green (Tone 5)
 - d. Blue (Tone 1)
 - e. CDF Local (Tones 1 thru 8)
4. On or before January 1, 2000 all ambulances must have a portable radio that have the capability of utilizing all simplex and tactical nets as follows:
 - a. Yellow
 - b. Black
 - c. Brown
 - d. Grey
 - e. Silver
 - f. Orange

g. CALCORD

5. Responding ambulances will monitor the specific command frequency associated with the fire agency that is responding to the same call.
6. The County Paramedic Ambulance Provider dispatcher will notify Monterey County FIRECOMM of the radio identifier of each responding ambulance at the time they provide the updated patient information. FIRECOMM will relay this information to the responding fire unit.
7. The County Paramedic Ambulance Provider will commit to and communicate to its personnel a philosophy that the use of fire frequencies will be minimized and limited as follows:
 - a. Ambulances initiating traffic on a command frequency is limited to:
 - Information on firefighter safety that fire units don't already know
 - Response has been disrupted or substantially delayed
 - When they arrive "on-scene", they will notify FIRECOMM
 - b. CALCORD will be the primary contact and use frequency between fire resources and ambulances once the fire resource/Incident Commander requests the ambulance to switch to that frequency.
 - c. The use of fire tactical frequencies will be allowed only when directly assigned by a fire resource/Incident Commander.
8. County Fire Agencies will advise and train their employees that the use of fire command frequencies to communicate with responding ambulance should be kept to a minimum and used for:
 - When necessary to assist the ambulance to locate the incident, i.e. when it is lost, when a difficult rural road/driveway is encountered
 - ascertaining an E.T.A. when an prolonged response is being experienced
 - response route information from a safety standpoint
9. Only Chief Officers will directly contact the On-duty County Ambulance Provider Paramedic Supervisor should concerns arise over inappropriate use of fire command frequencies in their jurisdictions. Concerns regarding use in another jurisdiction will be forwarded to the Fire Chief of that jurisdiction.