

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

POLICY ON
AIR AMBULANCE USE OF
MONTEREY COUNTY FIRE FREQUENCIES

GOAL: The goal of this policy is to enhance coordination of emergency operations by facilitating communications between private air ambulances and fire resources.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association to authorize the use of various fire frequencies licensed in our County by private air ambulances. The use is under specific conditions and guidelines as approved by the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association. All written requests for frequency use shall be directed to the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association.

CONDITIONS & GUIDELINES:

1. The requesting private air ambulance provider will commit and communicate to their personnel that use of these frequencies is permissive and subject to control by the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association and that 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 Chiefs Association, Operations Manual, Section 11-Communications.
3. In order to operate efficiently in a countywide fire communications system, all air ambulances of the requesting company shall be properly equipped with radios capable of utilizing CALCORD, and the following repeated command frequencies:
 - (a) Fire Red (Tones 2, 3, 4 and 5)
 - (b) Fire Gold (Tones 2, 3 and 4)
 - (c) Fire Green (Tone 5)
 - (d) Fire Blue (Tone 1)
 - (e) CDF BEU Local (Tones 1 thru 8)
4. In conjunction with the required CALCORD frequency, utilized pursuant to state guidelines as a tactical net for inter-agency communications, the Monterey County Fire Chief's Communications encourages and authorizes the utilization of Monterey County Fire Chief's Association simplex and tactical nets as follows:
 - (a) Fire Yellow
 - (b) Fire Black
 - (c) Fire Brown
 - (d) Fire Grey
 - (e) Fire Silver
 - (f) Fire Orange
 - (g) CALCORD

5. CALCORD will be the primary contact and tactical frequency of use between fire resources and air ambulances for use in Monterey County.
6. Fire Comm will advise of the assigned command and tactical frequency assignments upon request to the air ambulance dispatch center for the air ambulance.
 - Upon dispatch, the responding air ambulance(s) will select and monitor the specified command and tactical frequencies as assigned by Fire Comm.
 - Fire Comm will advise the Incident Commander of the tactical frequency assignment and, if available, the air ambulance identifier with ETA.
7. Enroute to the incident, the air ambulance will contact Fire Comm or CDF ECC (Monterey) and advise:
 - The private air ambulance identifier and estimated ETA to the incident.
 - Acknowledgment of the assigned tactical frequency.
 - Once at scene, air ambulance will contact Fire Comm or CDF ECC (Monterey) and advise that they are on-scene and switching to the assigned tactical. They will then make ground contact on the assigned tactical frequency.
8. Upon landing at the incident, the Incident Commander (or designee) will advise Fire Comm/CDF ECC that the air ambulance has landed. Upon take off from the incident, the Incident Commander (or designee) will advise Fire Comm/CDF ECC that the air ambulance has taken off and, if available, destination with ETA.
9. The use of fire tactical frequencies will be allowed only when assigned by a fire resource/Incident Commander.
10. The use of the Fire White frequencies is not allowed pursuant to State of California – Office of Emergency Services – Fire and Rescue Branch Operations Bulletin #28.