

**SUBJECT:** RADIO SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

**SECTION:** 305.01

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**PAGE(S):** 3

## PURPOSE

To provide a standardized format for the operation of the Fire Department Communications System in the City of Reading, Ohio.

## POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Reading Fire Department to maintain a portable and mobile based radio system for emergency and non-emergency communications between fire and police units, the Hamilton County Dispatcher and mutual aid fire units.

## PROCEDURE

**“PRIMARY RADIO SYSTEM”** - The primary radio system utilized by the Reading Fire Department shall be an 800 Mhz. digital system licensed to the Hamilton County Communications Center. The Reading Fire Department shall utilize this system under contract with the Hamilton County Commissioners.

The system design will allow for base station, mobile and portable radio operation. The talkgroup configuration utilized in all department radio equipment shall be as follows:

|     | “A”           | “B”           | “C”           | “D”           | “E”           |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1)  | FD East       | Fireground 12 | Reading Fire  | Reading City  | Mutual Aid 11 |
| 2)  | Fireground 2  | Fireground 13 | Evendale      | Mutual Aid 1  | Mutual Aid 12 |
| 3)  | Fireground 3  | Fireground 14 | Amberley      | Mutual Aid 2  | Mutual Aid 13 |
| 4)  | Fireground 4  | Fireground 15 | Arlington     | Mutual Aid 3  | Mutual Aid 14 |
| 5)  | Fireground 5  | Fireground 16 | DPSJFD        | Mutual Aid 4  | Mutual Aid 15 |
| 6)  | Fireground 6  | Fireground 17 | Golf Manor    | Mutual Aid 5  | Mutual Aid 16 |
| 7)  | Fireground 7  | Fireground 18 | Lockland Fire | Mutual Aid 6  | Mutual Aid 17 |
| 8)  | Fireground 8  | Fireground 19 | Sycamore      | Mutual Aid 7  | Mutual Aid 18 |
| 9)  | Fireground 9  | Fireground 20 | Woodlawn      | Mutual Aid 8  | Mutual Aid 19 |
| 10) | Fireground 10 | Fireground 21 | Arlinton PD   | Mutual Aid 9  | Mutual Aid 20 |
| 11) | FD West       | Fireground 22 | Reading PD    | Mutual Aid 10 | Mutual Aid 21 |
| 12) | Hospital      | Fireground 23 | 8 Tac 94      | HC 4          | Mutual Aid 22 |
| 13) | FD Admin      | Fireground 24 | 8 TAc 93      | HC 3          | Mutual Aid 23 |
| 14) | Valley Fire   | Fireground 25 | 8 Tac 92      | HC 2          | Mutual Aid 24 |
| 15) | FD Central    | Fireground 26 | 8 Tac 91      | HC 1          | Mutual Aid 25 |
| 16) | MAYDAY 1      | MAYDAY 2      | 8 Call 90     | HC Call       | Mutual Aid 26 |

## CINCINNATI FIRE TALKGROUPS

|     | “F”        | “G”       | “H”    | “I”      |
|-----|------------|-----------|--------|----------|
| 1)  | Main Disp. | CFD FG 11 | CMA 1  | OH-KY 1  |
| 2)  | CFD FG 2   | CFD FG 12 | CMA 2  | OH-KY 2  |
| 3)  | CFD FG 3   | CFD FG 13 | CMA 3  | OH-KY 3  |
| 4)  | CFD FG 4   | CFD FG 14 | CMA 4  | OH-KY 4  |
| 5)  | CFD FG 5   | CFD FG 15 | CMA 5  | OH-KY 5  |
| 6)  | CFD FG 6   | CFD FG 16 | CMA 6  | OH-KY 6  |
| 7)  | CFD FG 7   | CFD FG 17 | CMA 7  | OH-KY 7  |
| 8)  | CFD FG 8   | CFD FG 18 | CMA 8  | OH-KY 8  |
| 9)  | CFD FG 9   | CFD FG 19 | CMA 9  | OH-KY 9  |
| 10) | CFD FG 10  | CFD FG 20 | CMA 10 | OH-KY 10 |
| 11) | Norwood FD |           | CMA 11 |          |
| 12) | Norwood FG |           | CMA 12 | CBU 4    |
| 13) | CFD CMD 3  |           | CMA 13 | CBU 3    |
| 14) | PF Ground  |           | CMA 14 | CBU 2    |
| 15) | Main Aux.  |           | CMA 15 | CBU 1    |
| 16) | MAYDAY A   | MAYDAY B  | CMA 16 | CBU CALL |

**“FD EAST TALKGROUP”** - The Reading Fire Department shall utilize the “FD EAST Talkgroup” as the main talkgroup for communications with the dispatcher.

**“READING FIRE TALKGROUP”** - The “Reading Fire Talkgroup” will be utilized when radio traffic that for responding units and a fireground talkgroup has not been assigned. This talkgroup can also be utilized for day-to-day communications and training.

**“FIREGROUND and MUTUAL AID”** - Any “Fireground” or “Mutual Aid” talk group can be utilized for an incident or training upon the assignment by the Hamilton County Fire Dispatcher. Firegrounds will routinely be assigned to incidents per the CAD. To utilize a “Fireground” or “Mutual Aid” talkgroup not assigned, the Incident Commander should request a talkgroup assignment from the Hamilton County Dispatcher. All talkgroups assigned to area fire and police departments may be utilized according to that department’s Standard Operating Guidelines.

**“8 TAC”** – The “8 TAC” talkgroups in position C12 - C15 are simplex talkgroups and do not function through the trunked repeater system. These talkgroups may be utilized when radio traffic through the repeater system is not possible due to coverage problems, or personnel assigned to an incident are within close proximity of each other. “8 Tac 2” will be the primary frequency for radio communications with University Air Care. Procedures for contacting University Air Care are covered in “University Air Care Communication”.

**“CINCINNATI FIRE TALKGROUPS”** - In zones F through I, the Cincinnati Fire Department talkgroups are programmed. When making a response into the City of Cincinnati, all units will switch to the City talkgroup assigned to the incident. If the talkgroup is not given on dispatch, units can contact the Cincinnati Fire Dispatcher on “Main DSP” to ascertain the working talkgroup.

**“EMERGENCY BUTTON”** - The “Emergency Button” on all radio equipment shall send a signal to the Hamilton County Dispatcher when it is depressed. This button should only be utilized when a firefighter, crew or civilians are in immediate, life threatening danger, and units are not acknowledged after declaring a “May Day”. When on a Hamilton County talkgroup, the “Emergency Button” will change the radio to the FD East for communications with the dispatcher. To reset the “Emergency Button” the user should hold the button down continuously for 5 seconds or turn the radio off, then back on.

*Note:* When operating on a Cincinnati Fireground, the “Emergency Button” will activate on the talkgroup already selected.

**HIGH BAND SYSTEM** – The Reading Fire Department shall maintain an FCC license and operation of a VHF High Band radio System. This system should be utilized primarily for dispatch purposes, and for contact with other Valley agencies and industries utilizing VHF High Band Systems. This frequency will also be utilized for radio communications with the Reading Public Works Department.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

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All personnel shall be responsible for abiding by these guidelines and the procedures contained herein when communicating over the department radio system