

Davis County Fire Departments Standard Operating Guideline

[S.O.G.] 800 MHz Talk Group Assignments for Emergency Response		
[Subject Area] County Wide Cooperative Fire Department Procedure	[Effective Date] February 17, 2005	[No.] DC01
[Replaces S.O.G.] New Policy 800 MHz Talk Group Assignments for Emergency Response	[Dated] July 1, 2004	[No.] N/A DC01
[Approval Signature & Title] <div style="text-align: right;">Fire Chief</div>		Pages 2

Back Ground and Assumptions:

As the communities in Davis County continue to grow, the demands for the services provided by each of the individual fire department located within Davis County continues to grow. This rapid growth and demand for service requires a regionalized cooperative effort by the agencies providing this service in order to effectively meet the demand. These demands for service requiring the response of several different fire agencies may range from a simple automobile accident to a large urban wild land interface fire. The individual fire departments within Davis County have recognized this regional demand and have developed a countywide mutual aid agreement to help meet this demand. Several of the departments have entered into automatic aid agreements to help meet the increased demand for service with the limited resources available. With the addition of automatic aid agreements and the potential for increased mutual aid responses in the future, the fire departments within Davis County have recognized the need for a regional communications plan for interoperability. In order to develop and maintain this interoperability it is recognized that the fire agencies will need commonalties in not only the programming of radio talk groups but also in the daily dispatching procedures.

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to provide a common procedure for the assigning and use of common talk groups for emergency response for all of the fire agencies located within Davis County. This guideline should be adopted by each of the fire agencies and implemented at their agencies dispatch center. This SOG will address emergency response procedures in a generalized format. Each fire department may develop a more detailed communications SOG for their departments needs. For the purpose of this SOG the term “Channel “ and or “Talk Group” refers to a programmed 800 MHz radio talk group and may be interchangeable terms.

Main Talk Groups:

The main talk groups utilized for the day-to-day and large-scale emergency response use will be as follows:

Dispatching:

Each agency will be dispatched on their current assigned main dispatch channel (Channel –1) as per their agencies specific dispatch protocols. This channel varies by agency and will be specific to that agencies needs. After transmitting the information required by the agency’s protocols, the dispatcher will assign responding units an operations channel (Zone 3). Dispatch centers requesting resources dispatched by other centers will notify the receiving dispatch center of the operations channel the unit(s) are to respond on. Responding units should coordinate their response through the dispatch agency with jurisdiction over the emergency response on the assigned response operations channel. The dispatch agency with jurisdiction will track the times of all units responding on the call and make them available to those units as needed.

Operations Channels:

Currently, each of the four dispatch centers in Davis County has been pre-assigned three operations channels that are available. These talk groups are located in Zone 3, Channels 2 through 13 in all of the fire department radios in Davis County. They have been assigned to the four dispatch centers for use as follows:

- Davis County Dispatch Center: Ops 2 , Ops 3 and Ops 4
- Bountiful City Dispatch Center: Ops 5 , Ops 6 and Ops 7
- Layton City Dispatch Center: Ops 8 , Ops 9 and Ops 10
- Clearfield City Dispatch Center: Ops 11 , Ops 12, and Ops 13

Operations channels should be assigned to incidents by each of the dispatch centers for the response of all emergency incidents that the fire departments are dispatched to. It should be noted that several medical calls could be assigned to one single operations channel at the same time. However, working fire incidents or other large-scale complex incidents may require that the operations channel they are assigned be kept free of additional traffic and held specifically for that incident.

Dispatch centers and emergency response agencies within Davis County realize that there are times that one agency or center may require the use of more than the pre-assigned operations channels. The purpose of pre-assigning these channels is to define which channels are to be used initially by agencies and for the coordination of their use by other centers if need. It is agreed that if any center has a need for additional operations channels they may utilize any of the operations channels through coordinating that request with the pre-assigned center.

The incident commander may assign specialty groups or task groups, such as hazmat entry teams, etc. involved with an incident to additional talk groups available to the particular agency. However, the incident should be coordinated over the original assigned operations channel.

Event Channels:

Event Channels are common to most public safety radios in the UCAN system. The Event Channels are located in Zone 6 Channels 1-16. Davis County has been pre-assigned Event Channel 2 for our use (All Davis County Agencies). Additional Event Channels may be utilized by coordinating their use through Valley Emergency Communications Center. When resources have been requested from neighboring counties on large-scale incidents dispatch centers and incident commanders should consider the use of the event channels for the staging and initial coordination of those agencies.