Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois Communications – TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE

Index # C-01-05-02 | Adopted: 08/16/2004 | Revised: Page 1 of 3

Subject: Tactical Frequency Use Guideline

Functional Area: Communications

Category: Guideline

Approved: MABAS Executive Board

Purpose:

To provide an operational guideline for member fire departments and their personnel for establishing an effective communications component for the Incident Action Plan at both routine and major emergency incidents.

Responsibility:

This recommended practice is applicable to all MABAS member agencies. This procedure is intended to comply with the operational concepts provided under and in support of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Unified Incident Command System (UCS) and Incident Command System (ICS) principles.

Accountability:

Enforcement of this specific policy rests initially with the Co-Chairs of the MABAS Telecommunications, Communications, and Dispatch Centers committee, then the MABAS CEO, followed by the MABAS President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

Reporting Requirement:

There is no routine reporting requirement for this guideline.

Background:

The MABAS organization has grown significantly over the past few years in size, geographical service area and responsibility. The complex nature of the various incidents that member fire departments respond to has mandated the use of additional mutual aid dispatch, coordination and tactical operations radio channels to effectively manage these incidents. As a result, the MABAS Communications Committee has developed this recommended practice to assist local Incident Commanders with the task of implementing a communications plan at all emergency incidents and training evolutions.

Guideline:

The MABAS Telecommunications, Communications and Dispatch Committee hereby establishes the following guideline:

1. DEFINITIONS

Dispatch – Local frequency(ies) normally used for daily dispatch (base/mobile) of emergency calls.

IFERN – MABAS mutual aid dispatch and response frequency (base/mobile). (154.265 MHz)

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois Communications – TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE

Index # C-01-05-02 | Adopted: 08/16/2004 | Revised: | Page 2 of 3

IFERN2 – Alternate base/mobile mutual aid dispatch frequency (154.3025 MHz). (Reserved for future implementation and/or major incident coordination.)

Fireground – Low power tactical frequencies used for on-scene communications between the Incident Commander and units working the incident.

RED 153.830 MHz GOLD 153.8375 MHz* WHITE 154.280 MHz BLACK 154.2725 MHz* BLUE 154.295 MHz GRAY 154.2875 MHz*

* Narrow-band Frequency

IREACH – Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (155.055 MHz). Used for interdisciplinary coordination.

MERCI – VHF ambulance to hospital frequencies. (155.280, 155.340 & 155.400 MHz)

2. Guideline

- 2.1 The following guideline may be used by a fire service Incident Commander to develop the communications component of an Incident Action Plan. The narrow-band frequencies listed herein (IFERN2, GOLD, BLACK & GRAY Firegrounds) may create operational difficulties due to interference with adjacent wide-band frequencies. Use of these frequencies may be limited until full migration to narrow-band operation is completed.
- 2.2 Please consider that it is extremely difficult for a single individual to effectively monitor more than 1 or 2 radio frequencies during an emergency incident. As the communications plan becomes more complex, the Incident Commander must rely on aides to assist with communications management at the Command Post.
- 2.3 Occasionally, a jurisdiction may respond to multiple simultaneous incidents, or neighboring jurisdictions may experience simultaneous emergencies. Use of a single fireground channel for both incidents may be counterproductive and cause unnecessary harmful interference. Incident Commanders at subsequent incidents should consider adjusting their communications plan and assign a different primary fireground channel to avoid operational difficulties.
- 2.4 The recommended frequency use matrix on the following page can be used as a quick reference sheet for the Incident Commander or other communications personnel within the Command Post.

3 Frequency Guideline

See Appendix 1.

Conclusion:

The foregoing provides a uniform approach for MABAS members to develop the communications component of an Incident Action Plan. This is only an guideline and local conditions must be taken into consideration when implementing this procedure.

Approved by the MABAS Communications Committee on August 16, 2004.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois Communications – TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE Index # C-01-05-02 | Adopted: 08/16/2004 | Revised: Page

Page 3 of 3

MABAS TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE August 2004

August 2004									
	Routine	Box-2nd	Major	Mass	Fire &	Tech	Haz-	Water	Major
	Incidents	Alarms	Alarms	Casualty	MCI	Rescue	Mat	Rescue	Disaster
IC to Local									
Dispatcher	Dispatch	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN
IC to MABAS									
Dispatcher		IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN
Staging		IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN
Scene/First Due	555	DED	DED	555	DED	DED	DED	DED	555
Companies	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
Interior/Fire	RED	RED	RED		RED				RED
Companies				DED		חבר			
Operations Officer	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	DED	DED	RED
Safety Officer	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
RIT Team(s)	RED	RED	RED		RED				RED
Accountability	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
Water Supply	RED/BLUE	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK
Aerial Operations	RED/BLUE	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK
Logistics		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Public Information									
Officer		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Liaison Officer(s)		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Support Functions		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Extrication &									
Manpower				RED					RED
Triage Sector				BLUE	BLUE				BLUE
Treatment Sector				BLUE	BLUE				BLUE
Transport to									
Ambulances				IFERN	IFERN				IFERN
Transport to Med				MEDOL	MEDOL				MEDOL
Control Helicopter Landing				MERCI	MERCI				MERCI
Zone	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH
SRT Entry Teams	INEXCIT	IIILA	IIILA	II (L/ (OI I	IIXE/XOIT	GOLD	INEAGII	IIILA	GOLD
Haz-Mat Officer						OOLD	RED		GOLD
Haz-Mat Resource							BLACK		
Haz-Mat Entry/Back-							BLACK		
up							BLACK		
Divemaster/Dive							DL/(OIX		
Operations								BLUE	
Boat Operations								BLUE	
Base Camp									
Operations									IFERN2
Fire Operations									RED
SRT Operations									WHITE
EMS Operations									BLUE
Interdisciplinary									
Coordination	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH
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