



Chenango County Bureau of Fire

Office of the Fire Coordinator

Standard Operating Guidelines



SOG Number: 11-27	Title: UHF Radio System Outline and Operational Usage	Date Issued: 08/18/2011
By order of: Fire Coordinator Matthew L. Beckwith		Date Revised:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this SOG is to outline and notify all Chenango County Fire Departments and EMS units regarding the appropriate use of the UHF communications frequencies/channels they would normally operate during emergency situations.

GUIDELINE: Under normal responding and fire round situations the county departments would perform UHF communications using the following guidelines for all Chenango County Fire and EMS Units.

PROCEDURE: Although most channels should be used as their name implies, the intended uses for each of the new 16 frequencies/channels are as follows:

- A. **DISPATCH** (Channel 1) – This channel is only for the alerting of departments and units, requesting mutual aid and the status of responding chiefs and vehicles. Unnecessary traffic from multiple chiefs reporting out, personnel on-route to the station and others is not necessary, as to not overburden this channel.
- B. **COORDINATOR** – This is currently for the use of the Chenango County Bureau of Fire, its Coordinators and Fire Investigators.
- C. **GROUP OPERATIONS** – These groups as designate by “A”, “B” or “C” will be used as follows:
 - 1. **TACTICAL** – This is intended for use by the incident commander and his subordinate officers to operate the emergency scene. Communications to divisions, sector, safety and other officers are included. Each Department is assigned a tactical group for it’s operations. See “D”. Radio traffic between personnel should be done on this channel. Incident operations will be conducted on this channel.
 - 2. **TRUCK-TO-TRUCK** – This is for use by water supply, engine to engine, and between other vehicles involved in the incident’s operations. This may include other units notifying the Officer in Charge, they are in-route.
 - 3. **INTERIOR OPERATIONS** – This is intended for additional communications capabilities between interior personnel/groups and fire ground personnel who need to communicate with the interior personnel, such as roof to interior, interior to outside operations, command to interior, etc. This channel should be kept relatively free of non-essential communications in case of an interior firefighter emergency need. RIT Teams may utilize this channel during operations.

4. **FIRE POLICE** – Normal fire police operations, including traffic or other scene control.
5. **HELICOPTER OPERATIONS** – This is reserved for landing zone operations and communications with helicopter(s).
6. **INTERAGENCY** – This frequency is intended for communications between agencies other than the fire or EMS service to and from such agencies such as town and county highway, public transit, school buses and others.
7. **LOCAL/X-BAND REPEATOR** – This is a local “talk around” channel for non-emergency events and for emergency use by those departments that will utilize it for neighboring departments who operate fire ground on low band, 46.220, from their UHF system and then only if they have the appropriate equipment to do so.
8. **TACTICAL BASE OPERATIONS – A, B and C** – The 3 frequencies, which coincide with the operational groups, is a secondary way for fire control to contact the incident commander or the reverse, other than utilizing channel 1. Additionally, it allows the communications control center to monitor on-scene operations and be aware, if the proximity allows, to hear firefighter mayday alarms.

D. Departments and unit will normally utilize the UHF radio operational groups as follows:

<u>STATION #</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL GROUP</u>
11	Afton	B
12	Bainbridge	A
13	Mt. Upton	B
14	Brisben	A
15	Earlville	A
16	Coventry	C
17	Preston	C
18	Smithville	C
19	Guilford	C
21	Greene	B
22	McDonough	A
23	Norwich	A
24	North Norwich	B
25	New Berlin	A
26	Oxford	B
27	Plymouth	A
28	Sherburne	C
29	Smyrna	B

<u>STATION #</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL GROUP</u>
31	South New Berlin	C
32	South Otselic	C
33	Pharsalia	B
34	Superior Ambulance	
35	Cooperstown Medial Transport	
36	Greene EMS	B

- E. If radio communications on the fire ground or emergency scene should overlap with another responder's operations, the Chenango County Emergency Communications Center may request one of the scene commanders and units change operational groups.
- F. Departments or units going mutual aid to another department or unit will operate under the requesting department or unit's normal operational group.
- G. Attached is a chart of the County map depicting the tactical channel layout.

