

COLUMBIA COUNTY
OFFICE OF FIRE COORDINATOR

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Columbia County Dispatch will be utilizing the new frequencies as follows:

46.50mhz	=	FREQUENCY 1
46.44mhz	=	FREQUENCY 2
46.38mhz	=	FREQUENCY 3
46.24mhz	=	FREQUENCY 4
46.30mhz	=	FREQUENCY 5

The dispatching of the fire companies will continue to be done on Frequency 1 46.50 mhz. Both apparatus and chiefs will use frequency 1 while calling enroute and arriving on scene. Depending on other emergency traffic in the rest of the county and volume of calls in the field, the dispatcher may

1. keep units on Frequency 1
Example: Tri-Village is dispatched to an incident and it is the only current call in the field, it is not necessary for the dispatcher to switch them to another frequency.
2. when units call out, switch units to frequency 2 or frequency 3
Example: Tri-Village is dispatched to an incident, Hillsdale is dispatched to a second emergency in the field. Both companies will be dispatched on frequency 1. As Hillsdale units call out, the dispatcher will advise them to switch to frequency 2 or 3. Once units are switched they will remain on that frequency for the remainder of the call. Incident Command will communicate to County Control on the assigned frequency.
3. Dispatch will advise other units as they call out what frequency the incident is working on.

Under special circumstances or when call volume warrants, the dispatchers may assign the frequency upon dispatch. Such conditions may exist during, but are not limited to, multiple weather related emergencies and peak times. This will assist dispatchers in limiting call stacking.

Example: Columbia County Control to Greenport, respond for a tree and wires down in the roadway at the intersection of 23B and Newman Road, Units responding switch to frequency 2. Chiefs and apparatus responding would then call enroute on frequency 2

IMPORTANT NOTES ON NEW FREQUENCY USAGE

INCIDENT COMMAND

It is of the utmost importance that Incident Command be utilized for EVERY incident. Different units calling requests to dispatchers will no longer be accepted. Requests to the dispatcher will be from Command only. This procedure will stop confusion and reduce air traffic, letting your scene operations and safety operate more efficiently. Incident Commanders must update dispatcher on incident progression periodically.

FREQUENCY 4 46.24

When the system is operational, 46.24 should be used for interior fire fighting only. Utilizing this ensures the safety of the interior fire fighters without interference from other scene operations. Frequency 4 may be used as a fireground frequency ONLY if there are no interior attack operations on that incident scene.

FREQUENCY 5 46.30

This is the primary frequency for HAZMAT. This Frequency may be used for fireground operations when frequency 4 is being used for interior attack operations.

ACCEPTABLE RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

ALWAYS USE COLUMBIA COUNTY CONTROL, THEN YOUR IDENTIFIER.

1. When calling for times -- Done by Command or one unit only --
use phone # 828-4114 when possible
2. Units Responding
3. Units on Scene
4. Units awaiting a crew
5. Units on drill
6. IC shall update dispatchers of progression of incident
7. IC will call all units back in service. Exception will be when individual units remain on scene for extended duration s.
8. IC at mutual aid incidents will relieve other units. One unit from each mutual aid department is responsible for calling their own units back in service.

UNACCEPTABLE RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

1. Returning to quarters
2. Mobile service
3. Usage of air time without requesting permission

OTHER RADIO PROCEDURES

1. Listen to radio traffic before transmitting
2. Return radios to freq. 1 when securing units.
3. Train your members in the use of your radios and how scanning of frequency works
4. Dept s using privately licensed freqs on incidents must remember the freq that the dispatchers have assigned and that other units may not have your freq installed.
5. Company officers must police your own people on these protocols.