

RADIO USE AND ASSIGNMENT

8019

(No. 23 March 2008)

The below radio assignment plan shows that the hand held radios (HT) will be issued to the below personnel plus 2 HT per engine and 1 HT per ECT/CCV. All radios will be issued and tracked by the Unit's Communication's Officer.

Fire Protection

Chief Officers

- Executive Staff
- Region Chief
- Assistant Region Chief
- Unit Chief
- Forestry and Fire Protection Administrator
- Staff Chief
- Assistant Chief
- Battalion Chief
- Senior Arson and Bomb Investigator
- Forester I, II, & III
- Forestry Equipment Manager I, II, & III

Company Officers

- Fire Captain
- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Heavy Fire Equipment Operator
- Fire Prevention Specialist I & II
- Arson Bomb Investigator
- Forestry Assistant I & II

Law Enforcement

Unit Employees

- Battalion Chief - Bureau Chief
- Fire Captain Specialist
- Fire Prevention Specialist

Arson Bomb Employees

- Chief Investigator
- Senior Arson Bomb Investigator
- Arson Bomb Investigator
- Assistant Arson Bomb Investigator

Region and Sacramento Employees

- Deputy Director of Law Enforcement and Prevention - Sacramento
- Staff Chief of Law Enforcement - Sacramento
- Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement - Sacramento
- Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention - Region
- Assistant Chief/ Law Enforcement Coordinator - Region

MOBILE, HT AND SCANNER ASSIGNMENT PLAN

8019.1

(No. 23 March 2008)

1 = authorized number; X = Optional

	Mobile Radio	HT	Scanner
Vehicles			
Assigned staff vehicles: sedan, pickup, SUV, etc.	1		X
Van, Stakeside	1		
Utility vehicle	1		X
Fire Engine	1	2	X
CCV / ECT	1	1	
Artisan Vehicle	1		
Helitender	1		X
Dump Truck/Snow Plow	1		
Bulldozer Service Unit	1		
Transport	1		
Bulldozer	1		
Grader	1		
Personnel			
Fire Protection – 1 to each: LT & Perm: Company & Chief Officer		1	
Law Enforcement – 1 to each: LT & Perm: Officer, Investigator, & Specialist		1	
Helitack Base		10	
Maintenance Spares	1 per 20 (5%)	1 per 10 (10%)	

**MODIFICATION OF PLAN REQUIRES HEADQUARTERS'
(HQ) APPROVAL**

8019.2

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

The radio-assignment plan outlined above may be modified in response to changing radio technology, reorganizations, etc., but any such modifications will require prior approval, in writing, from the Deputy Director for Fire Protection.

DESK TOP SCANNERS

8019.3

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Desktop scanners may be approved and purchased locally with permission of the unit manager. Desktop scanners are *not* included in the statewide radio complement funded by Department headquarters. Therefore, purchase, maintenance and replacement must come from local budgets. Maintenance or repair of desktop scanners will *not* be accomplished by Telecommunications Division radio technicians.

RADIO PAGERS

8019.4

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Pagers may be purchased from local operating budgets and assigned at the discretion of the unit manager. All purchases are to be coordinated through the Senior TCO and Telecommunications Division in order to take advantage of state contract prices and obtain quality pagers meeting high technical standards. Repair and replacement of pagers is the responsibility of the vendor. Do *not* take pagers to Telecommunications Division radio technicians for service.

CITIZENS BAND (C.B.) RADIOS

8019.5

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Citizens Band (C.B.) radios may serve useful purposes in local situations, but they are not included in the statewide radio complement funded by Department headquarters. C.B. radios may be purchased from local operating budgets and assigned at the discretion of the unit manager. An example of appropriate C.B. radio utilization in a unit would be their use by forest practice inspectors to maintain contact with logging trucks on hazardous mountain roads.

Installation and operation of C.B. radios in CAL FIRE vehicles must not degrade or disrupt the normal operation of any CAL FIRE-owned radio equipment. If this is the case, the C.B. equipment is to be removed immediately.

Telecommunications Division radio technicians will not be requested to repair, install or service any C.B. radio or accessory.

AIRCRAFT RADIOS

8019.6

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

The Senior Air Operations Officer will coordinate with the Senior TCO to provide state-of-the-art agency radios in the CAL FIRE aircraft fleet. This includes all CAL FIRE administrative aircraft and CAL FIRE owned or contracted helicopters, air tactical planes and airtankers. The radios referred to in this section are, in the aviation group, termed "agency radios" to distinguish them from the radios which are inherent to operation of the aircraft itself, commonly called "avionics." The avionics systems, including the NAVCOM radios, VOR receivers, transponders, DME, etc. are the sole responsibility of the Aviation Management group and the contractors and avionics shops they deal with.

The coordination between Aviation Management and Fire Protection is essential to ensure that the tactical air-to-ground communications needs of Incident Commanders and all other ground units and resources can be handled satisfactorily by the aircraft supporting them.

Agency radios are permanently installed in CAL FIRE helicopters and administrative aircraft. They are normally removed from aircraft at the end of the contract period, and reinstalled just prior to next season's contract start-up. Spare radios for helicopters and airtankers are distributed to selected airtanker and helitack bases each fire season. It is sometimes necessary to utilize CAL FIRE airplanes or helicopters to fly spare radios to another base, to minimize out-of-service time on a badly needed aircraft.

FAMILY RADIO SERVICE (FRS) RADIOS

8019.7

(No. 17 September 2001)

CAL FIRE has strict policies on the use of specific radios and frequencies on emergency incidents that are intended to provide for adequate communications needed to ensure firefighter safety. The use of unauthorized radios and frequencies creates a potentially dangerous situation that must not occur.

Specifically, Family Radio Service (FRS) radios will not be used by any CAL FIRE personnel while involved in official, on-duty activities.

There have been near misses when a crew could not be notified of a pending fire overrun situation. They were not adequately monitoring approved tactical nets while operating on an unassigned frequency. Further, tactical nets are assigned to ensure appropriate communication between resources utilizing those frequencies, which include issuing of critical safety information. Finally, CAL FIRE is unable to control interference on unassigned frequencies by the public or other users of these radios.

All CAL FIRE employees are reminded to specifically follow the incident frequency assignments as stated in the Incident Communication Plan ([ICS 205](#)) and as set forth by the incident Communications Unit Leader.

Our federal cooperators have adopted the same position on this issue.

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)