

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

8034

(No.28 October 2014)

Throughout CAL FIRE's area of responsibility, the need for communication with local law enforcement agencies is increasing. The CHP, county Sheriff's Offices, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Parks and Recreation, and city Police Departments are some of the agencies with whom CAL FIRE field officers and ECCs must communicate frequently. Although the proliferation modern technology mobile radios has greatly improved our ability to talk to various law enforcement agencies, there still may be a need for system-linkage or relay of information in the command centers.

In some cases, installation in the ECC of a simple monitor-receiver on the other agency's frequency may prove sufficient. In others, a more costly and complex system of cross-communication may be warranted. If so, agreement must be reached between CAL FIRE and the other agency, including a letter of understanding or a formal detailed agreement, if necessary. It is also highly recommended that the names and / or radio identifiers of the CAL FIRE officers or resources that would typically use the law enforcement agency's frequency, be provided to that agency and their dispatch center for safety and situational awareness purposes. The Senior TCO should be consulted for technical issues prior to any formal agreement.

The use of Interoperability switches on CAL FIRE local nets is to be discouraged. Under agreement we will authorize the use of CAL FIRE Command Nets or Tactical nets be used in localized incidents, but only after frequency coordination has cleared the use of requested CALFIRE frequencies.

Whenever such communications systems require expenditure of state funds, they must be approved by the Deputy Director for Fire Protection, and cost-sharing must be proportionate to the projected benefits.

A Radio Frequency Use Agreement TD-400 must also be secured and retained from the allied law enforcement agencies. (Link to Form TD-400).

[\(see next section\)](#)

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