

Operations Bulletin #28 (8000)

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

**State of California - Office of Emergency Services
Fire and Rescue Branch**

OPERATIONS BULLETIN #28

Subject: White Fire Frequencies - Radio Communications

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations Section 90.21 reserves frequencies for Fire Radio Service and specifies eligibility requirements for their use. Included with the frequencies reserved exclusively for Fire Radio Service are three inter-system frequencies 154.280, 154.265, 154.295. The sole purpose of the inter-system frequencies is to provide for radio communications between two or more fire agencies for coordinating activities during mutual aid incidents.

Policies established in California are self-imposed by resolution of the California Fire Chiefs Association February 1995, and governed by the fire services in order to maintain the integrity of the intersystem frequencies. The OES Fire and Rescue Branch serves as the focal point for daily coordination of these efforts. Licensing is by the FCC.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Max. Power</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Mobile</u>	<u>Portable</u>
White Fire 1	154.280	110 Watts	x	x	x
White Fire 2	154.265	110 Watts*		x	x
White Fire 3	154.295	110 Watts*		x	x

*To reduce radio interference on scene, use of low power is strongly encouraged; radios used in aircraft are limited to 10 watts.

USE OF CODED SQUELCH ON THESE FREQUENCIES IS PROHIBITED

Operational Use

In order to avoid overloading one channel, tactical (fireground) operations should not be coordinated on White Fire 1. White Fire 1 should be reserved for field unit-to-dispatch center communications. Once on scene, tactical operations should be coordinated on White Fire 2 or White Fire 3. Multi-agency training exercises should follow the same guidelines.

Announcements of special weather alerts or other emergency related information is acceptable.

In order to maximize the use of the frequencies, multi-channel synthesized (programmable) radios are encouraged. The FIREScope Statewide Frequency Plan as published in the Field Operations Guide, ICS 420-1 September 1994, states that a 32 channel radio is considered minimum for Strike Team Leaders and other command personnel.

Prohibited Use

Fixed or portable repeaters and/or mobile relay equipment (extenders) are specifically prohibited on White Fire 1, 154.280. This includes "cross-patching" in dispatch centers such as UHF or 800 MHz to White 1. Portable repeaters and/or mobile relays may be authorized by State OES Fire and Rescue Branch (916) 262-1685 for temporary use on incidents.

Announcements of funerals, drills, etc. are not acceptable; nor is paging or alerting.

By FCC regulation, these frequencies are for inter-system use and are not to be used intra-agency (by one agency) as a secondary channel. **These frequencies are in the Fire Radio Service and shall not be used for coordination with private air ambulances (helicopters) or private ground ambulances, law enforcement, or other inter-discipline use.** The "CALCORD" frequency is specifically designated for inter-discipline use, and this use for such is encouraged. For more information regarding CALCORD contact OES Telecommunications Branch at (916) 262-1600.

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