

## **GUARD CHANNELS**

**8383**

(Revised September 2001)

Guard channels are channels that are “always on.” With the large number of air tactical channels available for incident use, pilots and air attack personnel sometimes lose track of the assigned channel and may therefore use these channels to establish initial contact

## **AIR GUARD FREQUENCIES**

**8383.1**

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All CDF aircraft will be equipped with radios programmed with Guard frequencies. The two Guard channels in use in California are:

Guard 1 (CDF and USFS Air Guard): 168.625 MHz

Guard 2 (CDF Air-to-Ground Guard) 151.220 MHz

The Guard channel selected for monitoring will depend upon aircraft location and the purpose of the mission.

Guard 1 (Air Guard) will be selected on at least one radio during all air attack operations on CDF incidents.

## **AIR-TO-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS ON GUARD 1**

**8383.2**

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Guard 1 channel will be used only as follows:

### **By Aircraft**

- To establish initial contact with an ECC, air attack base, or other aircraft when unable to make contact on the assigned frequency. Once contact is established, communications should be switched to another channel.
- To establish contact with an ECC, a ground unit, air attack base, or other aircraft when assigned frequencies are unusable or during an emergency.

### **By ECC**

- To establish contact with aircraft for purposes of diverting, recalling, or otherwise modifying their dispatch instructions.
- To advise aircraft of a tactical frequency assignment.
- To establish contact with aircraft during an emergency.

### **By Air Attack Base**

- To establish contact with aircraft during an emergency or when assigned frequencies are unusable.

## **AIR-TO-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS ON GUARD 2**

**8383.3**

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Guard 2 is reserved for emergency air-to-ground contact, and may be used for limited communications between aircraft and ground personnel.

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