

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">SPECIAL ORDER</h1>	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">2010.040</h2>		

Originating From	Issue Date	Expiration Date	Attachments
<b>Logistics</b>	<b>7/20/2010</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

**SUBJECT: Fire Department Elkridge Channel (FD-ELK)**

**APPLICABILITY: All uniformed, operational personnel**

1. The Department of Fire in Rescue (DFRS), in conjunction with the Radio Shop personnel, has reprogrammed all portable and mobile radios using the F5 template (apparatus) with a channel labeled “FD-ELK”. This channel is located in the 11<sup>th</sup> position in all tactical zones: ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE and DELTA.
2. When units operating in the “purple zone” on the CAD/MDT map are having trouble communicating with one another, they can request the ELKRIDGE PATCH. Communications personnel will then patch the operational channel (for example, Bravo 1) to the FD-ELK channel, so all units will be able to effectively communicate, and incoming units will be able to monitor the radio traffic. Radio traffic is transmitted through a booster antenna to the nearest radio repeater (tower).
3. The ELKRIDGE PATCH **will not** be automatic by Communications. Responding personnel **MUST** ask that the tactical channel (B1, C1, D1) be patched with the FD-ELK channel. It will only take a few seconds for Communications to complete the patch. In order for Communications to properly monitor ANY incident that utilizes the ELKRIDGE PATCH, a tactical channel must be used. NOTE: Emergency identifiers **will not** properly transmit when using the patch.
4. The patch can only be used for one event at a time. If two events exist in the Elkridge area that are both in need of the FD-ELK channel, then the higher priority event shall take precedence, as determined by the event type.
5. Mutual aid companies responding into the Elkridge area may not have the FD-ELK channel in their radios until their jurisdictions reprogram.
  - 5.1. Four extra portable radios will be available on Engine 11, plus one each in the vehicle assigned to Battalion 1, Battalion 2, EMS 1 and Safety 1, to allow for communications with mutual aid companies while operating in this area.
6. The proper procedure will be as follows:
  - 6.1. For incidents that do not require the use of a tactical channel (such as medical calls with ambulance and engine only) units shall request the “FD-ELK” channel if necessary and

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both units shall switch to ALPHA11. Units can then communicate with each other while on the event.

- 6.2. For incidents that require the use of a tactical channel (B1, C1, D!), Communications will assign the channel at the beginning of the dispatch, which is the current procedure. Responding units or units already on location that are having difficulty communicating can request the use of the **"ELKRIDGE PATCH"**. Units operating on the scene will switch to the 11<sup>th</sup> channel position in whichever zone they were originally assigned. [For example, if you were assigned to respond on Charlie 1, you would then switch your radio to Charlie 11 and Communications would patch Charlie 11 with Charlie 1. Incoming units (those still en route to the scene) shall stay on Charlie 1 so they can hear fireground transmissions, but once they arrive on location (or lose radio reception), they must switch their portables and mobiles to Charlie 11 to effectively communicate while on the fireground.]
- 6.3. Once command is terminated and all units have cleared the scene, the patch will automatically be dropped by Communications.
7. Even when utilizing the FD-ELK channel, there may be areas in which radio communications are still ineffective. This will improve the situation until a permanent solution is identified for radio issues in the Elkridge area.
8. The FD-ELK channel will be added to all other radios as they are reprogrammed.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey G. King".

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Jeffery G. King  
Deputy Chief, Support Services Command