

# HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE

PROCEDURE:	OPERATIONS	POLICY O-8
TITLE:	Radio Procedures	

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this guide is to establish general work procedures for the operation of fire department radios. This includes base station radios, vehicle mounted mobile radios, portable hand-held radios, and fire department pagers.

**SCOPE:** Radio communication is an essential part of ensuring a safe and organized emergency operation. All personnel will be issued appropriate radio communication equipment. Personnel will be trained and must be proficient in the use of all radio communications equipment.

**GENERAL:** The Hamilton Fire Department utilizes radios that operate on 3 different frequency ranges. They are designated as “low band”, “high band”, or “UHF” radios.

**Low Band:** Mobile radios, the base station, and fire department pagers.

**High Band:** Mobile radios assigned to chief’s vehicles and the EMS rescue vehicles. This includes traditional EMS and law enforcement frequencies.

**UHF:** Hand held portable radios, fire department pagers, and the station repeater.

**Base Station Radio *KCI-470:***

- Channel 1 is the priority channel on the base radio
- When acknowledging alarms and communicating with Fire Control, this channel should be utilized. The call sign KCI-470 or identification as “Hamilton Base” are acceptable identifiers when communicating from the base station.
- The base station radio is equipped with a decoder / encoder system that will detect HFD pager tones and rebroadcast them locally. In case of county radio failure, this system may be manual activated as needed by pressing the red button on the face of the unit.

**Apparatus Response:**

- Each unit shall call en route to fire control (ch.1)
- First arriving (ONLY) unit calls on scene to fire control (ch.1)
- While en route, officers shall monitor ch.2 for assignment
- One call to fire control for all units returning (optional)

APPROVED BY:	Ross Hoham	EFFECTIVE DATE:	04/10/02
TITLE:	Fire Chief	LAST REVISION:	2/25/08

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**UHF-Band Portable (Hand-held) Radios:**

- Primary Fireground communications will utilize channel 1  
(Additional channels will be assigned as needed by command)
- Fire Police will utilize channel 4
- Channel 5 works with the station cross-band repeater. Madison Co. fire control is repeated from the station on this channel. Normally mobile radios will be used to communicate (via command) to fire control. In the event of an emergency or when otherwise more appropriate, a radio operator may elect to utilize ch.5 to contact fire control.

Each radio will be clearly marked with a two digit identifier. The first number represents the apparatus and second is the individual or crew. For example, "portable 41" is the officer in charge of 194's crew. Portable 42 would be another firefighter who responded on 194. This complements the accountability system and is beneficial when determining who is assigned to specific assignments at the fireground.

**PROCEDURE:**

- Command will monitor all frequencies being utilized at the scene
- Command is responsible for all communications with fire control
- Command and operations must work together to assign additional radio channels as necessary
- As a scene changes in size/scope, command will follow accepted practices (NIMS) to modify radio procedures as needed.
- All crews will be equipped with a portable radio. As many personnel should have a radio as possible.
- Apparatus operators shall utilize fireground communications to work directly with crews -charging handlines, placing the tower ladder, etc.
- In the event of a "mayday", radio silence will be ordered until command determines otherwise. Additional fireground channels may be implemented by command as needed.

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