

Subject:	<b>Mutual Aid Cooperative Agreement for Use of Radio Frequencies</b>	
Effective:	<b>12/15/2016</b>	<b>Procedure</b>
Update:		
Reference:	<b>Santa Barbara County Operational Area Mutual Aid Plan</b>	

**PURPOSE**

To outline the terms and conditions for authorized users of fire radio frequencies by the cooperating fire agencies within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area.

The agencies included in the Cooperative Agreement are:

- Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC)
- Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District (CRP)
- Guadalupe Fire Department (GUA)
- Santa Maria Fire Department (SMR)
- Lompoc Fire Department (LMP)
- Montecito Fire Protection District (MTO)
- Santa Barbara Fire Department (STB)
- USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest (LPF)
- DOD, Vandenberg Air Force Base Fire Department (AFV)
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Central California District (CND)

**PROCEDURE**

1. When an individual responder needs to interoperate with other agencies on their same shared radio system, the responder will notify their dispatch center. The dispatcher can identify and designate an appropriate radio channel. Where no dispatcher intervention is required, responders still notify dispatch that they are switching to a shared channel to maintain responder safety.
2. Notify dispatch when the interoperability channels/talk groups are no longer required and announce the return to normal operations channels.
3. For extended incidents:
  - a. The lead agency dispatcher notifies the Communications Coordinator (COMC) or Communications Unit Leader (COML) that interoperability channels/talk groups are in use.
  - b. Each agency’s dispatch center tells additional responders what interoperability channels are in use for the incident.
  - c. The Incident Commander determines when the interoperability channels are no longer required and notifies the appropriate dispatch center.