

# LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>REVISION DATE</b>
USE OF TACTICAL RADIO CHANNELS	307	July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2003	

## PURPOSE

This SOP outlines the procedures for the use of “tactical radio channels” in an effort to maximize firefighter safety.

## GENERAL

It is well known in the fire service that the use of one radio channel for both dispatching and operations creates confusion, interference, and has been, at least partially, responsible for firefighter injuries and deaths. As a result of these problems, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District has multiple “tactical radio channels” programmed in all apparatus, command vehicles, as well as hand held radios. Each radio has been provided with a channel directory.

## USE OF TACTICAL CHANNELS

Once incidents have been transmitted on the dispatch channel, all units shall advise “responding” on that channel. While approaching the scene, the first due unit shall report “on scene,” repeat the address, give size up report, identify an appropriate command name, and announce moving to tactical channel. All subsequent arriving units will report “on scene,” then switch to the assigned tactical channel for all subsequent incident communications. Only the IC or Safety Officer shall have direct contact with dispatch. If a unit or group has emergency traffic and cannot contact command, they may then contact dispatch directly.

Once this channel switch occurs, the IC will monitor the dispatch channel via use of the scan function of the hand held or mobile radio. To avoid confusion from other radio traffic, units and personnel operating at the incident shall not be in the scan mode. Remember, if the IC cannot be contacted on the tactical channel, individuals may have to switch back to the dispatch channel for emergency traffic.

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Tactical channels may also be utilized for special functions i.e. stand-bys, training, hazardous materials operations, multiple casualty EMS incidents, technical rescues, etc.

*Larry Behrens*

Larry Behrens, Fire Chief

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

Date