Сог	NOR			
Index # C-01-05.02	Adopted: 08/16/2004	Revised: 02/23/2022	Page 1 of 3	
Subject: Functional Area:	Tactical Frequency Use Communications	Guideline		
Category:	Guideline			
Approved :	MABAS Executive Board	1		

Purpose:

To provide an operational guideline for member fire departments and their personnel for establishing an effective communications component for the Incident Action Plan at both routine and major emergency incidents.

Responsibility:

This recommended practice is applicable to all MABAS member agencies. This procedure is intended to comply with the operational concepts provided under and in support of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Unified Incident Command System (UCS) and Incident Command System (ICS) principles.

Accountability:

Enforcement of this specific policy rests initially with the Co-Chairs of the MABAS Communications Committee, then the MABAS CEO, followed by the MABAS President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

Reporting Requirement:

There is no routine reporting requirement for this guideline.

Background:

The MABAS organization has grown significantly over the past few years in size, geographical service area and responsibility. The complex nature of the various incidents that member fire departments respond to has mandated the use of additional mutual aid dispatch, coordination and tactical operations radio channels to effectively manage these incidents. As a result, the MABAS Communications Committee has developed this recommended practice to assist local Incident Commanders with the task of implementing a communications plan at all emergency incidents and training evolutions.

Guideline:

The MABAS Communications Committee hereby establishes the following guideline:

1. DEFINITIONS

Dispatch – Local frequency(ies) normally used for daily dispatch (base/mobile) of emergency calls.

IFERN – MABAS mutual aid dispatch and response frequency (base/mobile). (154.265 MHz - 210.7 Hz))

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois					
Communications – TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE					
Index # C-01-05.02	Adopted: 08/16/2004	Revised: 02/23/2022	Page 2 of 3		

IFERN2 – Alternate base/mobile mutual aid dispatch frequency (154.3025 MHz – 67.0 Hz). (Reserved for future implementation and/or major incident coordination.)

Fireground – Low power tactical frequencies used for on-scene communications between the Incident Commander and units working the incident.

RED	153.8300 MHz	67.0 Hz	GOLD	153.8375 MHz	91.5 Hz
WHITE	154.2800 MHz	74.4 Hz	BLACK	154.2725 MHz	94.8 Hz
BLUE	154.2950 MHz	85.4 Hz	GRAY	154.2875 MHz	136.5 Hz

IREACH – Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (155.0550 MHz – D156). Used for interdisciplinary coordination.

MERCI – VHF ambulance to hospital frequencies. (155.1600, 155.2800, 155.3400 & 155.4000 MHz)

2. Guideline

- 2.1 The following guideline may be used by a fire service Incident Commander to develop the communications component of an Incident Action Plan.
- 2.2 Please consider that it is extremely difficult for a single individual to effectively monitor more than 1 or 2 radio frequencies during an emergency incident. As the communications plan becomes more complex, the Incident Commander must rely on aides to assist with communications management at the Command Post.
- 2.3 Occasionally, a jurisdiction may respond to multiple simultaneous incidents, or neighboring jurisdictions may experience simultaneous emergencies. Use of a single fireground channel for both incidents may be counterproductive and cause unnecessary harmful interference. Incident Commanders at subsequent incidents should consider adjusting their communications plan and assign a different primary fireground channel to avoid operational difficulties.
- 2.4 The recommended frequency use matrix on the following page can be used as a quick reference sheet for the Incident Commander or other communications personnel within the Command Post. It should be noted that the chart in Appendix 1 is not intended to replace the ICS205 developed by an incident Communication Unit Leader, but can be used as a basis for ICS205 frequency selection.

3 Frequency Guideline

See Appendix 1.

Conclusion:

The foregoing provides a uniform approach for MABAS members to develop the communications component of an Incident Action Plan. This is only a guideline and local conditions must be taken into consideration when implementing this procedure.

Approved by the MABAS Communications Committee on August 16, 2004. Revised by the MABAS Communications Committee on December 1, 2021.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois Communications – TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE

Index # C-01-05.02 Adopted: 08/16/2004 Revised: 02/23/2022 Page 3 of 3

MABAS TACTICAL FREQUENCY USE GUIDELINE

December 2021

	December 2021								
	Routine	Box-2nd	Major	Mass	Fire &	Tech	Haz-	Water	Major
	Incidents	Alarms	Alarms	Casualty	MCI	Rescue	Mat	Rescue	Disaster
IC to Local									
Dispatcher	Dispatch	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN
IC to MABAS									IFERN
Dispatcher Staning		IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	
Staging Scene/First Due		IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN	IFERN
Companies	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
Interior/Fire		RED	NED	INED	RED	NED	RED	RED	NED
Companies	RED	RED	RED		RED				RED
Operations Officer	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED			RED
Safety Officer	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
RIT Team(s)	RED	RED	RED		RED				RED
Accountability	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED	RED
Water Supply	RED/BLUE	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK
Aerial Operations	RED/BLUE	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK	BLUE	BLUE		BLACK
Logistics		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Public Information									
Officer		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Liaison Officer(s)		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Support Functions		WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GRAY
Extrication &									
Manpower				RED					RED
Triage Sector				BLUE	BLUE				BLUE
Treatment Sector				BLUE	BLUE				BLUE
Transport to									IFEDN
Ambulances Transport to Med				IFERN	IFERN				IFERN
Control				MERCI	MERCI				MERCI
Helicopter Landing									MEROI
Zone	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH
SRT Entry Teams						GOLD			GOLD
Haz-Mat Officer							RED		
Haz-Mat Resource							BLACK		
Haz-Mat Entry/Back-									
ир							BLACK		
Divemaster/Dive									
Operations								BLUE	
Boat Operations								BLUE	
Base Camp									IFERN2
Operations									
Fire Operations	+		ļ			ļ			
SRT Operations									WHITE
EMS Operations Interdisciplinary									BLUE
Coordination	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH	IREACH
Coordination	IKEACH	INEAGH	IKEACH	INEAGH	IKEACH	IKEACH	IKEACH	IKEACH	IKEACH