



# CENTRAL ZONE OPERATIONS

ALPINE - BARONA - EL CAJON - LAKESIDE - LA MESA - LEMON GROVE  
SAN MIGUEL - SANTEE - SYCUAN - VIEJAS  
BONITA - HEARTLAND DISPATCH

## D-7 COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEDICAL/LAW/FIRE HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT

### PROCEDURE

#### HELICOPTER COMMUNICATIONS

When Medical helicopters are utilized by agencies dispatched by Heartland, the RCS 800 MHz radio talk group MED-AIR should be utilized whenever possible. When utilizing Law Enforcement Helicopters, the RCS 800 MHz radio talk group FIRE-AIR should be used.

The Incident Commander at his/her discretion may request the use of an additional TAC channel to communicate with the helicopter. The IC may also elect to use FIRE AIR to communicate with Law Enforcement Helicopters, depending on the nature of the operations.

If the Incident Commander requests the use of another radio frequency (talk group), it is the fire dispatchers responsibility to notify the helicopter's dispatch center of the change. The MED-AIR talk group may be patched with a TAC channel, but only if no other agencies are known to be using MED-AIR for different incidents.

Copters 1&2 and County Copters 10 & 12 may be used for a hoist rescue for those incidents that require that type of equipment. County Copters 10 & 12 will only transport patients under exigent circumstances by direction of on scene Paramedics.

#### WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

Wildland firefighting helicopters may be equipped with both 800MHz and VHF capabilities. It is important to note that Helicopters from outside of San Diego County may not have 800 MHz capabilities. **Communications with all air resources will be done, on the assigned air to ground frequencies.**

#### WING AIRCRAFT

When responding to fires on State Responsibility Areas or Federal Responsibility Areas, **all communications will be done on the incident assigned air to ground frequencies.**

#### AIR GUARD

All CAL FIRE aircraft and County Copters 10 & 12 are required to monitor AIR GUARD at all times and do not have the ability to turn it off. This channel is to be used in emergencies only. If you find yourself in an emergency situation and you are unable to contact aircraft on other channels, consider using AIR GUARD. Air Guard is part of the current programming in most VHF HT's.