



General Order

Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. #: 6-2-25

Subject: Modification to Operational Tac Channel Utilization

Date: Effective June 17, 2025

Authority: Deputy Chief Paul Supko/*PJS*

Goal:

Minimize use of Tac Channel A11 and prioritize keeping A7 available for Box and Structure assignments whenever possible.

During periods of high call volume, particularly when multiple box or structure assignments are active, the previous practice was to assign the first incident to **A7/FG10** and the second to **A11/FG20**. However, we have experienced several incidents where crews mistakenly switched to **A8/FG11**, likely due to the similarity in channel numbers and common miscommunication surrounding the number “11” on A8.

Until radio reprogramming can occur, we are implementing the following radio channel assignments:

- **First Box/Structure Assignment: A7**
- **Second Box/Structure Assignment: B7**
- **Third Box/Structure Assignment: B11**
- **Fourth Box/Structure Assignment: A11**

Releasing A7:

When a box assignment is downgraded or canceled, and only a few units (ex., an engine and truck for smoke removal) remain on scene for an extended period, the incident commander will advise the ECC that they will switch their operations to **A2**. This will free up **A7** for the next incoming box assignment.

This policy change is essential to ensure clear, reliable communication during high call volume. Confusion between similar channel numbers has led to crews operating on the wrong tac channels, creating safety risks and delays. Standardizing channel assignments reduces miscommunication, improves command and control, and supports safer, more effective incident operations.

This General Order will remain in effect until it is formally rescinded after the completion of radio reprogramming.