

International Association of Fire Chiefs

ADOPTED BY: IAFC Board of Directors on May 7, 2009

Assignment of Portable Radios/Two-Way Communications Devices to Every Firefighter on the Fireground.

The IAFC adopts the position that every firefighter operating on the Fire Ground or IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health - whether House Fire, Wildland Fire, Smoke Dense or Toxic Gases or Accident Scene) be equipped with a portable radio/two-way communications device (hereafter referred to as "portable radio"), preferably with an attached lapel microphone. Having a portable radio allows each firefighter to immediately report, or be notified of, hazardous conditions or emergencies such as a missing or injured firefighter or potential or impending structural collapse.

Background: Just as an SCBA and PPE are essential components of firefighter survival, so too are portable radios. While firefighters are encouraged to work in teams, there have been documented examples (in Prince William County, VA for example) in which they become separated. In these situations, a firefighter without a radio leaves him/her with no ability to communicate, thereby increasing the risk of injury or death for that firefighter and/or other firefighters on the scene.

Firefighters often work with limited or no visibility and with extreme noise levels, Not being able to see or hear makes fire ground communications challenging. During interior firefighting operations, firefighters use their portable radios to communicate with each other to assess the status of incident operations or to request specific firefighting tactics. Firefighters also use their radios to communicate

Sent from my iPhone

August 24, 2020
(Exhibit #3)

with company officers to inform them of conditions. Most importantly, firefighters depend on their radios to call a Mayday. Portable radios allow firefighters inside to communicate with personnel on the outside who may have a better vantage point from which to assess conditions – the size and location of the fire and building conditions. Information from outside can prevent crews from advancing into dangerous conditions inside. Having a radio assigned to each person is not enough. Firefighters must be trained in using the radio to request resources and most importantly, to call a Mayday. In September 2003, NIOSH released the document, *Current Status, Knowledge Gaps, and Research Needs Pertaining to Firefighter Radio Communication Systems*, where on page 13 it states: "It is critical for firefighters to communicate with one another within a structure and with units operating outside the structure, regardless of the building construction." The best way this can be done when crews are separated or in trouble are through the use of a personal portable radio.

It is the responsibility of chief officers to assure the safety and survival of the firefighters with whom they serve. The assignment of a portable radio is as basic to this as the assignment of turnout gear and basic PPE. It is one of the tools to do the job.

Sent from my iPhone

IMG_1515.jpg

winchell_tx@msn.com <winchell_tx@msn.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:12 AM

To: winchell_tx@msn.com <winchell_tx@msn.com>

Brown County Fire Department Responses						
<u>July 1st - Aug 18th</u>						
Dept:	Structure Fire:	Grass Fire:	Medical:	Accident	Other:	Total:
Bangs	0	50	21	2	2	75
Blanket	0	15	6	2	1	24
Brookesmith	1	15	4	2	0	22
Lake Dam	0	13	2	0	2	17
Lake Bridge	2	36	21	4	2	65
Early (County)	1	33	31	10	5 (80 Cou)	80
Early (City)	1	1	28	9	8 (47 City)	-0-
May	0	20	1	1	4	26
North Lake						18
Winchell	2	23	5	3	2	35
Zephyr	0	23	6	1	2	32
TOTAL CALLS:						394
*****How many manhours, lives saved and property saved by these men and women of Brown County (EVERYDAY)*****						

Sent from my iPhone

Bangs
18 Portables
9 mobiles

Fire Chief Radio List

Dept	Vol/Active	Port/Resert	Mob/Resert	Port/NOV	Mob/NOV
Bangs	18	18	6	30	9
Blanket	16	12	5	14	7
Brookesmith	14	10	6	12	9
Lake Dam	14	10	6	15	8
Lake Bridge	15	12	6	10	4
Early	20	10	4	10	4
May	23	20	9		
North Lake	10	10	5	10	5
Winchell	14	12	5	30	7
Zephyr	25	14	5	20	5
Total -	169	128	57	141	54

Sent from my iPhone