

**Peacham Fire Department
Peacham, Vermont**

Radio Communications Plan – Updated October 2020

Frequency Table – Not every radio has every Frequency or Channel

Frequency	Designation (Variant)	Purpose / Usage	Channel (typical)
154.190	CAPITAL	Secondary dispatch (Capital West mutual aid)	1 *
154.400	TWIN ST	Tertiary dispatch (Twin State mutual aid)	2
154.295	FIRE GRD	Fire ground (all mutual aid)	3
154.250	ST-J-FD P.ST J FIRE	Primary Dispatch (aka "Fire Alarm"). PRIORITY CHANNEL	4
155.280	HEAR 2	Ambulance to Hospital	5
155.340	HOSPITAL	Hospital (NVRH)	6
155.205	RES-DISP	"Rescue Dispatch" -not in use-	7
158.805	TOWN-PEA	Town of Peacham (Road Department primary & PFD alt channel)	8
155.7525	V-CALL	National Calling channel	9
151.1375	V-TAC 11 V-TAC 1	National Tactical Ch. 11	10
154.4525	V-TAC 12 V-TAC 2	National Tactical Ch. 12	11
158.7375	V-TAC 13 V-TAC 3	National Tactical Ch. 13	12
159.4725	V-TAC 14 V4/DHART V14/DHART	National Tactical Ch. 14 DHART helicopter primary & VT State Fire RIT	13
155.340	DHART	DHART helicopter (backup frequency)	14
154.250	PAGE	Alert tone activates your radio on the primary dispatch frequency.	15
	WEATHER	Weather radio (Rx only)	16
	TS FG 5	Twin State "fire ground Ch. 5"	17
	TS FG 6	Twin State "fire ground Ch. 6"	18
	TS FG 7	Twin State "fire ground Ch. 7"	19
	RPT	Channel on some portables to change the repeater channel on E1.	

** On some radios you will hear a short BEEP when you select Channel 1.*

General Tips for Radio Communications

- **Always carry a radio if one is available.** (They are useless sitting in the truck.)
- Always keep your portable radio charged.
- Hold the transmit key while talking (red light will go on); release to hear the response.
- 10-codes are not to be used; use plain English only.
- When calling someone use the designation of who you are calling first followed by your designation.
 - Examples: *Fire Alarm from Peacham Engine 1 ... or... Peacham K1 from Roof.*
- All radio transmissions should use the "Call and Echo" method. For example:
 - Call: *Fire Alarm from Peacham Engine 1.*
 - Echo: *Peacham Engine 1.*
 - Call: *Peacham Engine 1 is enroute to 123 Slack Street for a structure fire.*
 - Echo: *Received. Peacham Engine 1 is enroute to 123 Slack Street for a structure fire.*
- Speak clearly into the microphone while using a normal pace and volume level. Do not shout; do not whisper.
- Do not talk over other parties sharing the frequency. Always wait until a complete transmission is finished.
- Think about what you are going to say before you speak. Be complete and concise.

Radio Procedure for Dispatched Fire or EMS calls

On Primary Dispatch frequency – ST-J-FD (FIRE ALARM DISPATCH) 154.250

- Tones go out announcing the call. (FFRS also is used to tone out a call.)
- **Officers acknowledge tones** and indicate if they are responding to the scene or to the station.
 - **For EMS-only calls, the first two EMS first responders** should immediately sign on the air with Fire Alarm from their portable/mobile radio and indicate if they are responding to the scene or to the station.
- **Each apparatus signs on the air** and responds.
 - Example: *"Peacham Engine 1 is enroute to 123 Main Street for a structure fire."*
- Sometimes it is more efficient for one driver to sign on the air for multiple units.
 - Example: *"Peacham Engine 1, Tanker 1 and Rescue 1 are enroute to 123 Main Street for a reported structure fire."*
- **Each arriving apparatus reports "on scene"**.
- The first arriving officer or senior firefighter provides a size up/on-scene report.
- Chief Officers call on scene and establish Incident Command (IC). Direction is provided from the IC as to vehicle placement and assignments.

Additional Procedure for calls in a different dispatch territory (Twin State or Capital West):

- Each Peacham apparatus will first sign on with Fire Alarm as if it was a call in Peacham.
- Change to appropriate mutual aid Channel (TWIN ST or CAPITAL). Each Peacham apparatus will then sign on the air with Twin State or Capital West (the requesting agency) and report apparatus designation and where it is responding.
 - Example: *"Peacham Engine 1 is responding to 123 Barnet Rd for a house fire."* or *"Peacham Tanker 1 is responding to Groton station for coverage."*
- Each apparatus should let both Fire Alarm and the requesting mutual aid dispatch know when arriving on scene. Use the appropriate Channels.

On Fire ground frequency – FIRE GRD 154.295

- Once Chief Officers and the apparatus arrive on the scene (or anytime at a Chief Officer's request), the IC will request all apparatus and portable radios to switch to fire ground frequency to conduct on-scene operations.
 - *Example: "Peacham Command to all units, switch to fire ground."*
- The exception is EMS-only calls which will typically stay on Primary Dispatch unless otherwise directed by the IC or EMS Officer In Charge.

Monitoring Dispatch Frequency

- The IC will need to keep a portable on Primary Dispatch frequency (FIRE ALARM):
 - Fire Alarm dispatch will communicate with the IC there.
 - Other/incoming apparatus may contact him there (example: mutual aid companies)

Base Radio at Peacham Fire Station

- **Base Radio in office is always left on and always set to TWIN ST.**
- Base Radio upstairs is a backup. You must turn it on.

Vehicle Radios

- Turn power on to E1 radio on the radio.
- E1 and W1 both have remote radio heads in the bumper. To take the radio out of scan you need to do so in the Cab of the vehicle.

Vehicle (On-Scene) Repeaters

- The Peacham Fire Department has two vehicle (on-scene) repeaters that will boost portable radio power to vehicle radio wattage. This is useful if a portable radio needs to communicate with someone far from the scene.
- Engine 1 Repeater:
 - The Engine's mobile radio is always in repeater mode on the Fire Alarm Dispatch Frequency.
 - Access the repeater with your portable by transmitting on the Fire Alarm Dispatch Frequency.
 - To change the repeater frequency in E1, switch your portable radio to RPT and then....
- Rescue 1 Repeater:
 - After starting the vehicle, Always press the RPT button on R1's mobile radio. This will place the radio in Repeater mode. (A letter **C** will be displayed.)
 - (Optional) You can change the Channel on the mobile radio to the channel you wish to communicate on as the repeated Channel.
 - Access the repeater with your portable by transmitting on the channel selected on R1's mobile.

At Completion of Calls

- The IC will close out the call by reporting to Fire Alarm that *"Command is terminated and all Peacham units are returning"*. (Each unit should NOT repeat that they are returning.)

- When back at the fire station, each apparatus driver is responsible for letting Fire Alarm know that their unit is Back in Quarters and whether in service or out of service.
 - Example: *“Peacham Engine 1 is Back in Quarters and In Service.”*
 - Sometimes it is more efficient for one driver to sign in for multiple units.
 - If the unit is not ready for another call immediately, the apparatus should be reported as *“Out of Service”*. When the apparatus is once again ready to respond, Fire Alarm should be notified that the apparatus is *“Back in Service”*.
- Upon completion of the call, all apparatus radios should be tuned to the Primary Dispatch frequency (Ch. 4) and then placed in SCAN mode.

VCOMM Frequencies (VCALL and VTAC)

- Mutual aid companies coming into Peacham are familiar with local communication practices and maintain interoperability using local channels.
- Other mutual aid companies may utilize the VCALL channel to “call” the IC. You should not continue to use the VCALL frequency for tactical or on scene communication.
- The IC should identify and announce alternate VTAC channels being used for tactical or on-going communication (such as VTAC 11 through 14).

Using Specific Radio equipment

- Each radio is different. Practice with each.
- Not every radio has every Frequency or Channel.
- Some portables have displays; others don't. For those without displays remember:
 - CH 3 = Fireground
 - CH 4 = Fire Alarm Dispatch
- Practice!