

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: 
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Subject: **8100 Command & Control**
Specific Subject: **8130.001 Standard Dispatch Format**

Original Policy Date: **January 2010**
Revision Date: **March 2016**

POLICY:

The ECC will use a standard format for all dispatches.

PROCEDURE:

The use of a standard dispatch format improves clear and professional communication, and the efficient dispatching of resources. The ECC will use the following procedures when dispatching incidents.

Reporting New Emergencies/Incidents

Reports of new emergencies or incidents from the field over Butte local serve as a pre-announcement for new emergencies/incidents and will be provided in the following manner.

When reporting a new emergency use the phrase "new incident". When stating "new incident" provide a brief description of the incident location and type; however, before providing detailed information wait for the ECC to acknowledge you and prepare to enter information in to CAD.

The abbreviated incident location and type will serve as a pre-announcement to field resources. For example, "Oroville, U2123 new incident, TC, Hwy 99 at Durham Pentz." After acknowledgement from the ECC be prepared to provide a detailed location, report on conditions and incident needs. For example, Oroville acknowledges, "Oroville". "Oroville, U2123, TC single vehicle roll over, NB Hwy 99 ½ mile No of Durham Pentz, request a TC response".

Pre-announcement

All incidents will be pre-announced beginning with three beeps. Once a "pre-announcement" is broadcast, all radio traffic should cease until the dispatch is completed. The only exception to this is if another unit has a new incident, emergency or mayday traffic.

The ECC will pre-announce single engine response using their radio identifier. For example, three beeps "E-63, medical, 1416 Grand Ave." Multi-engine incident responses

will be pre-announced by geographical area. For instance, three beeps "Butte College Area, vegetation, 1234 Clark Rd."

Dispatch of Resources

1. Equipment and personnel will be dispatched by their assigned resource designator and radio numbers; i.e. E-72, TRK-74, R-64, B2114, T2106, etc.
2. Equipment and personnel will be dispatched in the following order:
 - a. Chief Officer(s), if any.
 - b. Duty Officers (Prevention/Safety), if any.
 - c. Career staffed engines, (including automatic & mutual aid)
 - d. Volunteer companies and their equipment (engines, squads and water tenders).
 - e. Transport/dozers
 - f. Hand crews.
 - g. Aircraft.
 - h. Specialized resources (Rescue/Haz Mat)
3. Following the dispatch the ECC will announce the time out.
4. For multi-engine alarms the ECC will conduct a controlled response check back in the following order: engines, dozers, crews and overhead (Chief Officer, Prevention, Safety & other). During response check back the ECC will provide a description of the type of report received from the RP(s), and state the IC designator and tactical frequency.

A typical high level wildland dispatch would sound like this: Quick-call tones--- "Battalion 2116, Prevention 2121, Training 2106 (SOF), Engines 2168, 64, 2154, 2160, 2169, Plumas Engine 53, Co 61, Engines 60 and 61, Water Tender 61, Water Tender 64, Transport 2140, Plumas Dozer 3, Butte Crew 1, 2nd crew on order, Air attack 210, Tanker 93, 2nd Tanker on order, Copter 205, vegetation fire, Bald Rock Road and Rockefeller Road. Response check back will follow the following format. "Unit responding to Bald Rock Rd., single report from a neighbor roadside fire, first unit at scene Rockefeller IC on Tac 12, E2168,....T2140,....BTC1,....B2116, P2121, T2106, (time out). Volunteer equipment and aircraft will check back on their own based on their response.

Response Check Back (multi-engine response)

For single engine response the ECC will not conduct a controlled response check back. Resources should initiate their own response acknowledgement.

1. The ECC will initiate response check back (1 minute day, 2 minute night) with two beeps and stating the incident location. If the incident involves a life safety threat the ECC will initiate response check back with three beeps, state the location and hazard

2. Followed by a summary of additional information pertaining to the incident, including number or reports, size/magnitude, threats (structures), routing information, etc.
3. The ECC will then check back with each career staffed resources. Resources must acknowledge the specific threat/hazard; e.g. "E72 responding, copy power lines down", "E2184 responding, copy staging".
4. Following acknowledgement by each resource the ECC will announce the IC designator and tactical frequency. The command frequency is assumed to be Butte local unless otherwise specified by the ECC.

For example, two beep, "Oroville with response check back to 4567 Forbestown Rd. single report from property owner, vegetation with powerlines down, acknowledge "powerlines down", first unit at scene Forbestown IC on Tac 12."..... "B2115"... "B2115, copy powerlines down", "E2154"... E2154, copy powerlines down.".....