

**CAL FIRE Butte Unit**  
Policies and Procedures



Approved By:   
Darren Read, Unit Chief

Approval Date: **June 9, 2016**

Subject: **8100 Command & Control**  
Specific Subject: **8130.015 Personnel Radio Identifiers**

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

**POLICY:**

All personnel, assigned to apparatus with multiple portable radios (HT's), will utilize specific personal radio designators for company members. Common communications, including radio identifiers for all company/crew members contribute to clear communications and improve firefighter safety.

**PROCEDURE:**

Personnel will use assigned radio identifiers as outlined below while using the portable radio, on all frequencies.

Command & Dispatch Net Communication

When communicating on the Command frequency the assigned company officer for each apparatus will use the assigned resource designator. For example, the captain assigned to E-2168 will use "Engine 2168", and the company officer on E-33 would use "Engine 33."

Tactical Net Communication

When communicating on the fire ground using tactical frequencies the company officer will be identified by the resource. On CAL FIRE engines where there is only one company officer the officer will be identified by the resources; i.e. Captain on E-2168 will be referred to as "Engine 2168." Firefighters on CAL FIRE engines will be referred to with an alpha designator at the end of their radio ID. These suffix designators will start at "Alpha" with the front seat firefighter and progress, ascending, through the phonetic alphabet through the back seat firefighter(s). For example, three fire fighters are assigned to Engine 2168, in addition to the company officer. The designators for the three fire fighters are "Engine 2168 Alpha", "Engine 2168 Bravo, and "Engine 2168 Charlie".

Company members on County or City Apparatus will be referred to by their rank and radio number. For example, on the fire ground personnel on E-42 would be referred to as Captain 42, Engineer 42, or Firefighter 42; when there are multiple personnel of the same rank they will assume "Alpha" designators as described above.

While using the apparatus mobile radio the apparatus' radio I.D. shall always be used (i.e. "Engine 42").