



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

DESK PROCEDURE 18-4

DATE: JUNE 27, 2018

SUBJECT: HELICOPTER ORDERING

REFERENCE:

Helicopter Ordering:

INTRODUCTION

The following procedure shall be utilized when requesting helicopter resources for incidents within the Verdugo Fire System. A helicopter can be requested for medical, rescue (hoist) or for water dropping operations.

The utilization of the AIRTAC voice radio resource on the Verdugo radio consoles shall be used first when requesting law enforcement helicopters.

PROCEDURE

Verdugo staff will first use AIRTAC for **hailing** of Law Enforcement helicopter resources within the ICI system:

1. Upon receiving a request for a helicopter from an Incident Commander or in anticipation of a request for a helicopter, dispatchers shall “hail” on the AIRTAC Trunked Channel for any available airship.
 - a. “Any Available Airship, from Verdugo Fire, on AIRTAC” (repeat as necessary)
 - b. Upon a response to the hailing, Verdugo dispatch shall pass on to the responding aircraft the nature of the incident, the location, and the Verdugo Fire Channel for the assignment. Upon confirmation of receipt of the incident information, the dispatcher shall attach the responding resource to the incident in CAD.
 1. In the event additional air resources are being requested or are already responding (such as LAC or LFD air ships¹), this information will be transmitted to all responding aircraft in an effort to maximize situational awareness and air safety communication and coordination.
 - c. If no response is received to the hailing, Verdugo shall notify the IC or requesting unit and proceed with the following process:

Verdugo staff will request a helicopter for medical, rescue (hoist) or for water dropping operations in the following order:

1. Los Angeles County Sherriff Air 5 for all Medical and Rescue Incidents (Sun up to Sun Down only)
2. Los Angeles County Fire Department for all Medical and Rescue Incidents when Air 5 is not available and first for all Fire or Water dropping requests.
3. Los Angeles City Fire Department when all of the above have been exhausted and are not available.

** IF an LAFD airship is ordered and assigned to a Verdugo System incident a 30 minute interval timer will be set. Verdugo will announce to the incident commander every 30 minutes the helicopter is assigned. (“Canyon IC, Verdugo; you have 30 minutes on your Helicopter timer”)

Permitted Uses

1. AIRTAC may be utilized by Foothill Air Support Resources (FAST) to make initial contact with the Verdugo Fire Communications dispatch center.
2. AIRTAC may be utilized by Verdugo Fire Communications dispatch to monitor activity and subsequent availability of air resources to the Verdugo System.
3. AIRTAC may be utilized by Verdugo Fire Communications dispatch center staff to hail Foothill Air Resources (FAST) for more effective response to an incident within the Verdugo system.
 - a. AIR resources will be assigned an Air-to-Ground (A/G) channel to coordinate with ground resources.

Prohibited Uses

1. The AIRTAC channel may not be utilized in any measure, as a fireground or fire tactical channel by fire resources or Verdugo Fire Communications.
2. The AIRTAC channel may not be utilized as an Air-to-Ground (A/G) channel. Alternate channels are available for that purpose.
3. The AIRTAC channel may not be “patched” to another channel unless specifically authorized to do so by AIRTAC personnel.

** Anytime a helicopter resources is requested for a wildland fire incident. The request must immediately be entered and processed through ROSS.

Silvio Lanzas, Deputy Chief