



6100 RADIO EQUIPMENT

6110 MAINTENANCE AND ISSUE

6111 Maintenance

Only authorized city communications technicians may adjust or repair any city radios. Members who damage or find damage to any department radio shall immediately notify a supervisor.

6112 Assignment (Revised January 8, 2009)

Each commissioned member may be personally issued a department radio, and if issued, this will be noted on the member's equipment record. Members may be issued specialized radios based upon their assignment. Generally, these radios are unit-assigned and must be returned to the unit when the member leaves that assignment. Members are responsible for maintaining their radio equipment in good working order. If a radio must be deadlined, members may either hand-deliver the radio to city communications for service or request their division fleet technician make the delivery.

Members are responsible for the security of their radio equipment as they are for any issued department equipment.

Officers may carry other radio equipment (e.g. citizen's band radio, scanners) if authorized by their supervisors. Use of that equipment shall be restricted to police-related activities that further the department's goals by enhancing the officer's ability to communicate with the public.

The department may issue radio equipment to outside agencies for the mutual benefit of both. The Chief of Police or designee must authorize such assignment and the equipment will be issued and tracked by the police Logistics Division.

6113 Radio Frequencies

The City of Tucson Department of Operations Communications Division is responsible for the oversight of the use of all radio frequencies assigned to the city. Only city communications can authorize radios to be programmed to transmit on city frequencies. Members shall not alter or authorize to be altered any privately owned or other-agency radio to work on city frequencies without written chain-of-command authorization and city communications approval.

6120 RADIO FUNCTIONS

6121 Malfunction

If a member is unable to make radio contact with dispatchers, that member may make telephone contact with communications via the regular communications phone numbers. 911 phone contact will be made only if the regular communications phone numbers fail or in an emergency.



Members will deadline radios following the appropriate procedures if they note problems with their radio equipment.

If problems occur with the main transmitters, communications personnel will give members contingency instructions. In the event of an emergency evacuation or system disruption at the communications facility, TPD personnel will be given instruction regarding the contingency operational plan. Communications personnel will notify the force commander or duty commander and proceed, following detailed plans contained in the Communication's Section Rules and Procedures Manual.

6122 Cross-Channel Repeat Functions (Gateway System)

Radio communications can be accomplished with other city agencies and with many other area agencies by use of the Gateway Radio System. This is a tri-band repeater system designed to provide simultaneous communications in VHF, UHF and 800 MHz radio bands. The central transmitting point for the Gateway system is a radio site in the Tucson Mountains covering an area encompassing Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley and Green Valley. The Gateway frequency is channel 12 on TPD radios.

6122.1 Activation

To minimize misuse and/or inadvertent conversion of the frequency to a crosstalk channel, the frequency must be activated by personnel at one of the four major dispatch centers (TPD, City Communications [TFD/MEDS], PCSD or DPS).

The Incident Commander and a supervisor from each involved agency must authorize activation of the system.

6122.2 Use of the Gateway System

All activity on Gateway is recorded. The agency requesting activation is responsible for incident command and radio coordination until or unless control is passed and accepted by another agency. Use of Gateway is based upon a priority system:

- **Priority 1:** Involves a life threatening emergency that requires the immediate assistance of more than one agency and direct communications is essential to the emergency.
- **Priority 2:** Involves a serious incident of life threatening or potentially life threatening circumstances that requires the assistance of more than one agency and direct communications is beneficial to the emergency.
- **Priority 3:** Involves incidents of a serious nature that require the assistance of more than one agency and the direct communications between agencies will assist in the response to the incident.



In the event a second incident use of the system is requested, the Incident Commander already using Gateway will be asked to determine if their situation is sufficiently contained to allow a second incident to run concurrently.

6122.3 Operational Guidelines

Field units using the Gateway radio system will precede all transmissions with the name of their agency followed by their normal designator/call sign (e.g. "TPD 2Frank55" or "SO 2324").

All communication will be in clear plain talk, as radio codes, abbreviations or police jargon may not be understood by all users.

Examples of use are:

- major fires,
- serious incidents in which police coordination with medical services may be needed, and
- major emergencies, e.g., large chemical spills, aircraft or train crashes, floods, or other emergencies requiring the large scale evacuation of citizens.