Specific Channel Guidance

Narrowband VHF Nationwide Interoperability Zone

V-FIRE 21-26 (Requires a license or MOU)

SEVERAL OF THE V-FIRES ARE USED DAILY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF OKLAHOMA. Some Oklahoma agencies have grandfathered licenses for these frequencies and use them for daily operations. Random assignment of a V-Fire for incident communication can cause harmful interference for existing public safety radio systems. Consult a COML or COMC for assignment.

V-MED 28, 29 (Requires a license or MOU)

V-MED 28 HAS EXISTING OPERATIONS. Consult a COML or COMC for assignment. V-MED 28 was formerly known as HEARS (Hospital Emergency Ambulance Radio System). The new, proper narrowband name is V-MED 28. An additional frequency was created during the narrowband process. It is V-MED 29.

V-LAW 31, 32 (Requires a license or MOU)

V-LAW 31 HAS EXISTING OPERATIONS. Consult a COML or COMC for assignment. V-LAW 31 was formerly known as NLEEF (National Law Enforcement Emergency Frequency). The new, proper narrowband name is V-LAW 31. An additional frequency was created during the narrowband process. It is V-LAW 32.

Narrowband VHF State Interoperability Zone

OK FIRE 1(Requires a license or MOU)

OK FIRE 1 was formerly known as STATE FIRE, (although many other variations of the name have been known to exist). The new, proper narrowband name is OK FIRE 1. This channel should be used as a “last resort”. On a busy wildfire day, this channel is severely overloaded. It should be used with caution.

In 2014, a full year after mandatory narrowbanding, it is known that many agencies still refer to this channel as State Fire. Unfortunately, OKOHS and the COML’s/COMC’s cannot know if this refers to the old wideband channel or if agencies reprogrammed their radios and chose to keep the wideband label. This creates an issue for interoperable agency responses. COML’s/COMC’s have been instructed to avoid relying on this frequency if the channel label does not match recommended guidance.

Due to the shared nature of this frequency, it is highly recommended that agencies avoid using this as an air-to-ground communications link.

OK LAW 1 (Requires a license or MOU)

OK LAW 1 was formerly known as STATE LAW, (although many other variations of the name have been known to exist). The new, proper narrowband name is OK LAW 1. This is one of the most common frequencies in Oklahoma. Most law enforcement VHF radios will have this channel. THIS IS THE NARROWBAND version of this channel. Prior to the publication of the Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG), this channel was seen programmed with a number of labels. The wideband channel may be labeled MUTUAL AID, LAW MUTUAL, or a variation of that label. If a radio has a channel label on this frequency other than OK LAW 1, it cannot be assumed that it has been narrowbanded.

Since this channel is shared, the potential exists for overloading during an incident. It should be used with caution.

Due to the shared nature of this frequency, it is highly recommended that agencies avoid using this as an air-to-ground communications link.

OK LGMA 1 (Requires a license or MOU)

OK LGMA 1 was formerly known as STATE LGMA, (although many other variations of the name have been known to exist). The new, proper narrowband name is OK LGMA 1. This is one of the most common frequencies in Oklahoma, and is a "catch-all". It is known to be used in some communities as a primary law enforcement channel and in others for town utilities, animal control, or for firefighting. Some wildland task forces use this frequency as their tactical channel. THIS IS THE NARROWBAND version of this channel. Prior to the publication of the Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG), this channel was seen programmed with a number of labels. The wideband channel (or narrowband radios) may be labeled with an agency-specific identifier such as "County Sheriff". If a radio has a channel label on this frequency other than OK LGMA 1, it cannot be assumed that it will work in an interoperability environment.

Since this channel is shared, the potential exists for overloading during an incident. It should be used with caution.

Due to the shared nature of this frequency, it is highly recommended that agencies avoid using this as an air-to-ground communications link.

OK NET 1 (This frequency is reserved for base-to-base operations and requires a license)

This is the proper narrowband name for the dispatcher to dispatcher net. Common programming practice is to program this in mobiles and handhelds in RECEIVE ONLY MODE.

OK EM 1(Requires a license or MOU)

This is the state Emergency Management VHF. It is used statewide for EM coordination. Usage is limited to EM functions.

This frequency is used as a link to the OKWIN radio system on talkgroup SEMA-3. The CTCSS/DCS codes for this network are not listed here; the programming template shows the "Oklahoma Commons" CTCSS tone of 156.7 only.

OK AIR/GND 1(Requires a MOU)

Operating authority for this frequency is by MOU with the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). The full channel name is OK AIR/GND 1. The common abbreviation is OK A/G 1. This is eight characters.

This is a LOW-POWER channel specifically reserved for air to ground communications only. It may not be used for any other purposes, and may not be programmed in high power (100-watt) mobiles.

OK AIR/GND 2 (As authorized by Oklahoma Military Department)

This frequency can be used to communicate with aircraft of the Oklahoma Military Department (OMD). It cannot be used by any non-military aircraft unless they are operating with OMD aircraft. The full channel name is OK AIR/GND 2. The common abbreviation is OK A/G 2. This is eight characters.

This channel is specifically reserved for air to ground communications only within the restrictions listed above. It may not be used for any other purposes.

AIR GUARD (For use with federal aircraft only, and for Emergencies only)

The channel name refers to the aviation world of "guarding" a channel, and does not refer to the Army or Air Force National Guard. One would use this frequency for extreme emergencies only, (such as firefighters being overrun in a wildfire,) and would only be used to make initial contact with an aircraft. It may not be used for any other purpose. It is traditionally programmed as channel 16 in any firefighting zone.

Narrowband VHF Federal Interoperability Zone

NC 1, IR 1-9 (As authorized or Federal Response)

These are FEDERAL INCIDENT RESPONSE frequencies, and are programmed in radios for interoperability with FEDERAL assets. Usage of these channels without a federal presence at your incident is not allowed.

Narrowband VHF Repeaters Zone

V-TAC 33-36 (Blanket authorization, with restrictions)

These are shared, Emergency Only channels. Blanket FCC Authorization covers mobiles and portables only; a repeater would require a license.

These are REPEATER CHANNELS and they re-use the V-TAC frequencies in certain combinations to configure a repeater output and repeater input. They use a differed PL tone in an attempt to keep the repeater from keying up when a user is on the standard V-TAC's.

THESE CHANNELS SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS AN "OUT-OF-OPTIONS" resource. They will burn two of your available V-TAC channels, limiting your simplex tactical options. You will be instructed by the COML should a V-TAC repeater be necessary.

CAREFUL COORDINATION IS REQUIRED TO USE THESE CHANNELS! If more than one incident is located in a geographical area, V-TAC repeaters can adversely affect other incidents!

THESE CHANNELS ARE REPEATED, WHEN ACTIVATED.

DO NOT PROGRAM A REPEATER TALKAROUND FUNCTION ON THESE CHANNELS.

VHF Weather

WX-1 through WX -9/83B

These are receive-only channels. Weather broadcasts are still transmitted in wideband. Many narrowband-only radios will allow you to program a wideband channel if it is receive only. If your radio will not allow programming in wideband, the audio from these channels will be less than optimal.

Narrowband UHF Nationwide Interoperability

U-CALL 40R/D, U-TAC 41-43 R/D

For these eight frequencies ONLY, (in UHF), the FCC has issued a "blanket authorization" for use in public safety mobiles and portables, *as long as the agency has an existing license on other FCC-licensed spectrum.* These frequencies are not intended for daily operations within an agency or department.

Oklahoma programming practice is to append ALL channels with either a "D" for Direct (AKA Simplex) or an "R" for Repeater.

OKOHS is only aware of fixed infrastructure repeaters in the Oklahoma City Metro area. All other areas of Oklahoma would be limited to the Simplex, or Direct channels.

Narrowband UHF Federal Interoperability Zone

NC 2, IR 10-18 (As authorized for Federal Response)

These are FEDERAL INCIDENT RESPONSE frequencies, and are programmed in radios for interoperability with FEDERAL assets. Usage of these channels without a federal presence at your incident is not allowed.

800 MHz Nationwide Interoperability Zone

8-CALL 90D/R, 8-TAC 91-94D/R (Blanket Authorization, with restrictions)

For these ten frequencies ONLY, (in 800 MHz), the FCC has issued a "blanket authorization" for use in public safety mobiles and portables, *as long as the agency has an existing license on other FCC-licensed spectrum.* These frequencies are not intended for daily operations within an agency or department.

These are the nationally recognized interoperability channels for 800 MHz. They are NOT system-specific.

Oklahoma programming practice is to append ALL channels with either a "D" for Direct (AKA Simplex) or an "R" for Repeater.

700 MHz Nationwide Interoperability Zones

Various channel names, see programming template

- These are programmed as APCO P-25 only; there are no analog channels.
- Older radios without P-25 software are not capable of using these channels.
- Since most 700-800 MHz radios are programmed by system owners, your radio may or may not have these channels, and/or may have only a subset of these channels.
- Studies have concluded that first-generation digital vocoders do not reliably pass human voice audio when in the presence of noisy equipment (PASS alarms, pump motors, chain saws) and so caution should be exercise when using these channels for fireground tacticals.
- Although no fixed repeater infrastructure currently exists, it is recommended that the repeater channels are programmed as well for use with mobile sites or when traveling out of state on mutual aid assignments.