

## VERDUGO TASK FORCE

July 2008 Email Update

*(Meeting was cancelled)*

### Language Line Translation Service – Emergency Field Instructions

Please distribute the attached instructions to your field personnel for those instances when they need translation assistance during a response.

### Frequently Asked Questions: ICIS

Please also distribute the attached FAQs to your personnel. We will be adding additional questions and answers as they are needed. The latest version of this document will be posted on Verdugo's web site ([www.VerdugoFire.org](http://www.VerdugoFire.org)).

### Coverage Testing

We asked the following agencies to perform coverage testing in their cities to ensure that there is adequate coverage in areas of these cities where LA County might provide mutual aid. So far, we have received testing results from SGB and SNM for RED11 and from ARC and SMD for RED12, and the coverage quality is not at the level we need. RED12 is currently down for service, and we'll need further testing once it's back up. Verdugo's radio procedure policy cannot be completed until we have confirmed that these two channels provide sufficient coverage in these cities.

**MRV, ARC, SMD: RED12** (local repeater is at Courtyard Marriott, 700 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, N 34:08:58.0 W 118:00:50.2)

**SGB, SNM, MPK: RED11** (local repeater is at Garvey Reservoir @ Orange & Tegner, Monterey Park, N 34:02:51.6 W 118:02:12.2)

### TICP Pocket Booklets

VHF and UHF versions are being finalized this week, will soon go into production to supply enough copies for all 11 cities.

### UPS Changeover

Transition to Verdugo's new Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) equipment occurred June 17, without serious mishap. There were only three incidents during the actual down-time and Verdugo's backup systems functioned perfectly to receive, process and dispatch those calls. A second UPS unit was brought online the following week, so now Verdugo has fully redundant primary UPS power that can carry Verdugo for at least six hours, if the primary and backup generators fail for some reason. In addition, a new feeder line has been brought into Fire Station 21, giving Verdugo two separate sources of feeder power from the Glendale Water & Power grid. In the event of a significant power loss to the primary feeder line, a manual transfer switch would be used so Station 21 would receive power from a different part of the grid. A significant test of the new UPS system occurred this week while installing these new feeder lines in the electrical room of the station. The UPS's and generator worked as planned and all operations remained normal during the hour and a half that the generator was running, all the way through the transition back to main utility power.

### Montebello

A proposed contract dispatch service agreement was prepared by the Glendale attorney and approved by attorneys from Burbank and Pasadena before being sent to Chief Duncan last week. Planning has begun on a number of levels with the assumption that Verdugo will be adding a 12<sup>th</sup> agency in early 2009.

## **Reddinet on MCT's**

Now that the budget year has begun, the paperwork is being processed for a purchase order so the programming can begin.

## **AVL**

Several agencies are still struggling to find time to install the software. Those that have installed the latest version are finding that it remains very stable, without the need to reload or troubleshoot. Burbank and San Marino have it installed on 100% of their apparatus.

**Air to Ground Channel** – Both LAC & ANF responded on this issue and stated that when air resources are initially requested into our area, they will each utilize their own agency's Air to Ground channel for a period of at least 24 hours. After that, ROSS will be utilized to request an Air to Ground channel, as it will likely be part of the ICS-205 Communications Plan. It remains a priority for Area C to identify its own Air to Ground channel and will continue to be pursued by the Technical Committee, but it will no longer be on the TF agenda.

## **ICIS Update**

- ◆ **Station Alerting** – A hold has been placed on testing the new prototype board that Burbank's Radio Shop has at Station 15, due to an issue with encoding MDC's from the console. Techs are troubleshooting.
- ◆ **Tertiary Alerting** – Once the new station alerting boards are in place, we will be able to switch to StatAlert, which will give the dispatcher an acknowledgement that the alert was received by the station. This will also eliminate the 5/6 tone phantom alerts.
- ◆ **BC Alerting** – The Radio Tech committee is looking into a solution that might enable users to go back to the Minitor pagers we used to use, but so far they have been unable to identify a frequency that could be used.
- ◆ **Phantom Alerts** – No phantom alerts have been reported since the last Task Force meeting.
- ◆ **Coverage Issues** – When Glendale's radios were AutoTested, a substantial number of them were found to be out of alignment. Most were corrected through software adjustments, but several had to be sent back to Motorola. Of the 39 Monrovia radios that underwent the AutoTest procedure, 11 had problems that needed to be corrected and 1 had to be sent back to Motorola. Arcadia's radios have also undergone this process, although the results have not yet been summarized. Monterey Park's radios are scheduled to be done this week.
- ◆ **Audio Levels** – No recent reports of problems.
- ◆ **LAFD** – Continuing with their programming of ICIS frequencies into their radios.
- ◆ **LA County** – On July 1, Battalion 6 split and a portion became Battalion 22. We will be obtaining new, updated pages for your yellow helicopter directories and will distribute them when available.
- ◆ **Progress on Radio Reprogramming** – We believe ALH, ARC, MRV, MPK, SGB, and SPS are finished (correct us if this is incorrect). The tri-cities are still working on programming, partly due to some units being on strike teams. We would appreciate updates from SMD and SNM please.

## **For Future Discussion**

- ◆ Suggestion for long-range planning purposes: Reorganize the dispatch channel, putting EMS calls on RED2 or alternate channel, RED3-8 would be tactical channels. RED1 would become outbound traffic from Verdugo only – no inbound traffic. This would involve adding a second radio dispatcher to the existing staff.

- ◆ Another suggestion involves using the 700-series nomenclature for the strike team unit that's leaving the city instead of the reserve that is filling in at home, with the goal to always use the "normal" designation for units here at home. Pros and cons? We'll discuss in August.

**Next Task Force Meeting:** Tuesday, August 12, 9 a.m. at Verdugo.