

The



County- Wide

Radio System



***Troy FD Fireground
Communications
Changes***



Existing Issues

During the OakWIN implementation in the Troy FD there have been three continuing issues:

- Complete radio coverage within structures
- Voice communications in high noise environments
- Voice communications utilizing SCBA

Manufacturer Initiatives

The vendor is working on several initiatives to address these issues:

- Automatic gain control in the radio software to address noise issues
- A new vocoder in the portable/mobile radios (the vocoder is the device that converts analog voice into digital data in the transmitting radio and converts digital data to analog in the receiving radios)
- Third party suppliers are working on new speaker microphones to address issues

Troy Initiatives

The Troy FD is implementing a new vehicular repeater for testing that will allow a conventional fire ground channel to be linked to a tactical talk group

Interim Changes

While all of these efforts are ongoing, the following procedural change is being implemented to assure the safety of Troy FD personnel -

*ALL ONSCENE TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS
WILL BE CONDUCTED USING CONVENTIONAL
ANALOG CHANNELS*

Conventional Mode (ECP)

- The conventional (analog) mode has proven to be more functional for offensive fire fighting operations:
 - Communications are radio to radio with no infrastructure required
 - All radio equipped personnel on scene can receive on scene communications
 - On scene personnel may relay communications in large, dense structures
 - The portable radio receiver is approximately 4 times more sensitive in analog mode
 - Analog mode provides more intelligible SCBA communications

Impact of this change...

This change will result in the loss of the following capabilities:

- The emergency alert function will not be operation when radios are in the conventional mode
- The dispatch center will not be able to monitor or transmit on the conventional tactical channels
- Radio communications on the conventional tactical channels will not be recorded

Operational Procedures

- It is suggested that portable radios assigned to apparatus be left in the ECP (conventional mode) with the keypad locked
- If the portable is turned off in ECP mode with the keypad locked and the battery removed, it will power up the same way when the battery is reattached
- Leave the channel selector on position 1 (FIRE 63D) This is the primary tactical channel we will use

Operational Procedures (con't)

- The other tactical channels (FIRE64D, FIRE 83D, and FIRE 84D) may be used under the following conditions:
 - Two incidents are in close proximity to each other and communications on the same channel interfere with each other
 - A large incident occurs and more than one tactical channel is required
- These tactical channels are common to all fire departments using Open Sky radios

Operational Procedures (con't)

- Officers will have to utilize Open Sky digital mode when responding and switch to ECP/ conventional mode after arrival on scene and it is determined that a conventional tactical channel will be required for the incident
- When a conventional tactical channel (or tactical talk group) is required at an incident the IC will need to monitor the tactical channel/TG and the dispatch talk group to maintain contact with Dispatch

Operational Procedures (con't)

All personnel operating at incidents with portable radios are expected to use a speaker microphone

Crews shall test for correct channel with command prior to entering a structure

P-7200 Conventional Operation

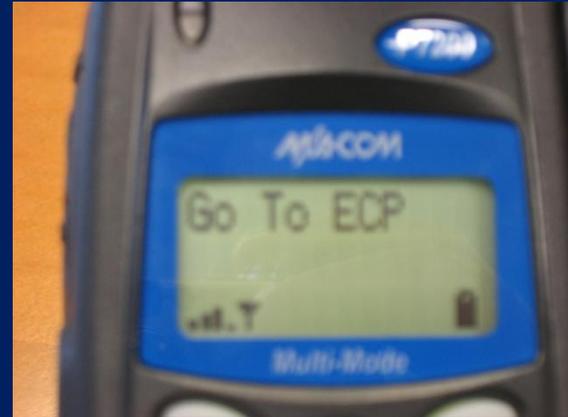
- To switch to ECP/Conventional mode:
 - Press 1 # (sequentially)
 - Select the assigned tactical channel:
 - FIRE 63D – “Fireground 1”
 - FIRE 64D - “Fireground 2”
 - FIRE 83D – “Fireground 3”
 - FIRE 84D – “Fireground 4”
- To Lock the keypad:
 - Press the “M” button twice

P-7200 Conventional Operation

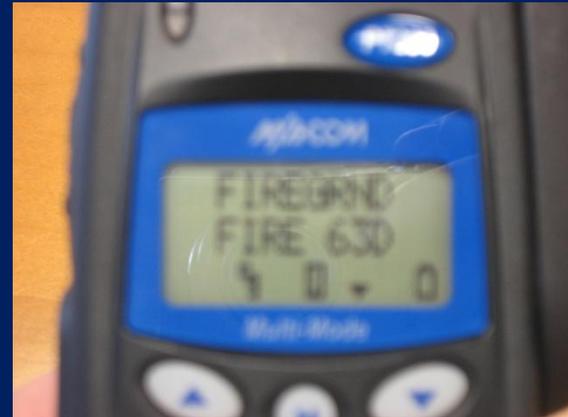
- To unlock the keypad:
 - Press “M” and either side option button (sequentially)
- To Return to Open Sky:
 - Press the up arrow button ▲

Entering ECP/Conventional Mode

Press 1

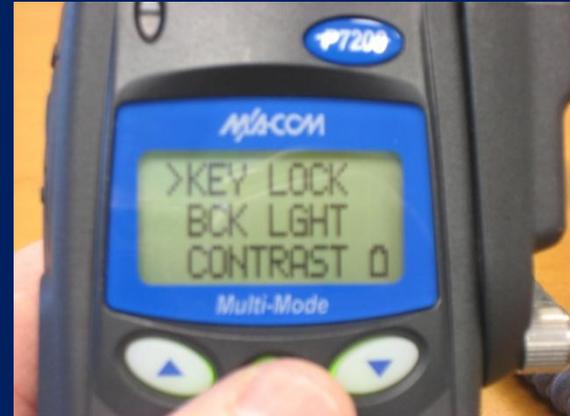


Press #

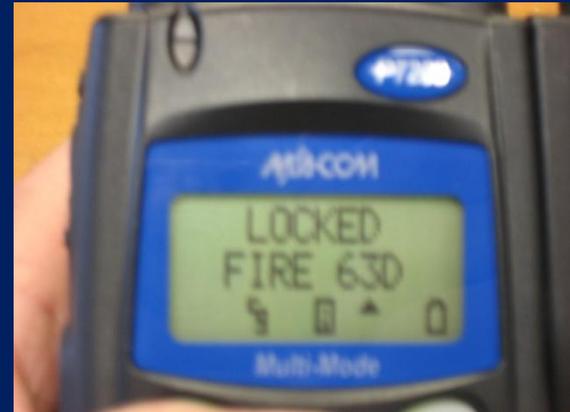


Locking the Keypad

Press M



Press M (again)



Unlocking the Keypad

Press M

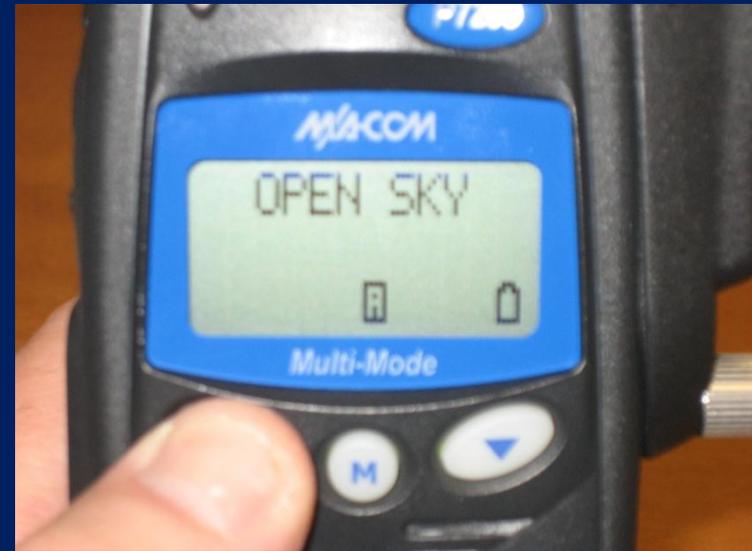


Press upper or
lower side option
button



Returning to Open Sky

Press “up” arrow
button



M-7200 Conventional Operation

- To switch to ECP/Conventional mode:
 - Press “C” button on control head
 - Select the assigned tactical channel:
 - FIRE 63D – “Fireground 1”
 - FIRE 64D – “Fireground 2”
 - FIRE 83D – “Fireground 3”
 - FIRE 84D – “Fireground 4”

M-7200 Conventional Operation

- To switch to Open Sky mode:
 - Push the toggle switch next to the talk group/channel selector up once

M-7200 – Switching to ECP/Conventional Operation

Press the “C” button once



The display will change to



M-7200 – Switching to Open Sky Mode

Push the option switch up once



“Option” toggle

The display will change to



Questions?



Exercise #1

- Using the P-7200 Portable Radio:
 - Select ECP/Conventional Mode
 - Select FIRE 63D –"Fireground 1" channel
 - Lock the keypad
 - Test with command
 - Turn the radio off
 - Remove the battery
 - Attach the battery
 - Turn the radio on

Exercise #2

- Using the P-7200 Portable Radio:
 - Select ECP/Conventional Mode
 - Select FIRE 64D – “Fireground 2” channel
 - Lock the keypad
 - Test with command
 - Turn the radio off
 - Remove the battery
 - Attach the battery
 - Turn the radio on

Exercise #3

- Using the P-7200 Portable Radio:
 - In ECP/Conventional Mode
 - Unlock the keypad
 - Select Open Sky Mode
 - Switch to TRF_FD3
 - Contact Command
 - Switch to ECP/Conventional
 - Select channel FIRE 63D –”Fireground 1”