

BULLETIN

NO.: 21-061

DATE: March 15, 2021

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Stephen Wright, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, A Division
Kelly Zombro, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, B Division
David Gerboth, Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Commander, C Division

SUBJECT: Multi-Unit Alert Tone Change

Effective May 3, 2021, at 0800 hours, the multi-unit alert tone will be changed per the Occupational Health and Safety Committee's (OHSC) recommendation. The current multi-unit alerting tone has the potential to cause an adverse physiological response due to the tone's jarring nature. Several studies have found increased cardiovascular stress to firefighters based on the emergency alerting method. Overwhelmingly, studies have found that using a "ramp-up" tone reduces stress and fatigue. Ramp-up tones are those that begin softly and gradually increase in volume.

The Department's alerting system has 55 tone options available. Many are not distinctive from one another, already in use, or possess the same stress-inducing properties. After reviewing all tones available, tone 34 has been chosen to replace the current tone. Tone 34 is less stress-inducing due to being a "ramp-up" tone and distinctive from other tones currently in use.

An audio file of the new multi-unit alert tone is attached.

Thank you to members of the OHSC for their dedication to improving the workforce's health and well-being.

Please route any questions or concerns through your chain of command.