

BULLETIN

NO.: 24-057  
DATE: March 29, 2024  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: David Gerboth, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Operations  
Roger Fisher, Deputy Fire Chief, Emergency Command and Data Center  
SUBJECT: Municipal Airport Communication Procedures

The San Diego Fire Rescue Department (SDFD) has distributed radios to both the towers and operations staff at Montgomery Field and Brown Field Airports. This initiative aims to enhance communication between SDFD units and municipal airport towers in case of airport emergencies.

The current communication procedure is for the 1<sup>st</sup> SDFD unit on scene to contact the tower via an ICOM portable VHF-AM radio. ICOM radios are only issued to units in the immediate vicinity of the airfield and BC vehicles. The ICOM radios use older technology and are unfamiliar to most personnel.

Each municipal airport tower has been issued an APX6000 radio and has been provided a brief tutorial on radio operation. The towers were also advised on what the standard comm plan would be for responding units. The tower will receive the assigned channels from ECDC when the response is initiated. Communications between the tower and IC will remain on the command channel and should be limited to access info and pertinent incident updates. The tower call sign will be either Montgomery Tower or Brown Tower. Following communications between the tower and SDFD units on SDFD channels, the tower may direct airport ground operations personnel to escort SDFD units on the airfield. Airport Operations will utilize their radio solely for monitoring and situational awareness purposes.

Towers are not staffed 24 hours, and units that have been issued an ICOM VHF-AM radio will retain them for any incidents that occur after hours.

Hours of Operation

**Montgomery Field Tower**

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Brown Field Tower**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm