

## BULLETIN

NO.: 20-143  
DATE: August 19, 2020  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: Roger Fisher, Deputy Fire Chief, Emergency Command and Data Center  
SUBJECT: Emergency Radio Tones – RIC activation and “Cover Now”

Beginning August 24, 2020, the Emergency Command Data Center (ECDC) will begin using pre-alert tones for cancelling units and emergency events such as a RIC activation/mayday, cover now, and life hazard emergencies. Thanks to the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC) for their work on this program.

The warble tone and 10-second tone (one short beep every 10 seconds) are new to SDFD and are distinctive tones intended to alert personnel to an emergency and to remind all personnel to maintain strict radio discipline.

### Cancelling a Dispatch

Two short beeps will be used prior to cancelling a dispatch when units have NOT gone enroute on the dispatch channel. The two beeps will be followed by an announcement. For example, “E15, M120 cancel, acknowledge.”

### RIC Activation/Mayday

At the onset, the warble tone will go out over the command and tactical channels and will be followed by a scripted announcement by ECDC to “clear the channel for emergency traffic only”. Following the warble tone and announcement, the 10-second tone will be activated to alert units that there is an active emergency and to limit nonessential radio traffic until directed otherwise. The incident commander, fire dispatch supervisor, fire dispatcher, or ECDC battalion chief can initiate these tones on the command channel.

### Cover Now

When ECDC becomes aware of a ‘cover now’, a series of three short beeps followed by a scripted announcement to “keep radio traffic to a minimum” will occur on the command channel, followed by the 10-second tone. The 10-second tone will be activated to alert units that there is an active emergency and to limit nonessential radio traffic until directed otherwise. The tones will be discontinued by ECDC when the cover now is resolved.

### Life Hazard

Life hazard events may precipitate the activation of three short beeps followed by an announcement of the hazard. For example, “Metro with an emergency announcement. There is major flooding and live wires down in the area of Broadway and Harbor Drive.” This may be initiated by the incident commander, ECDC battalion chief, or fire dispatch supervisor.

### 10-Second Tone

The 10-second tone (one short beep every 10 seconds) may also be utilized to alert personnel to an emergency. For example, an active shooter, building collapse, firefighter down, etc. The ECDC BC, incident commander or fire dispatch supervisor may activate these tones to remind units to maintain radio discipline.

	1 long beeps	2 short beeps	3 short beeps	warble tone	10-second tone
General Announcement	X				
Incident Dispatch			X		
Cancel Dispatch		X			
RIC Activation/Mayday				X	X
Cover Now			X		X
Life Hazard Notification			X		