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December 14, 2006

Alan Caldwell, Senior Advisor
International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22033-2868

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

On March 6, 2006, the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC) discussed the possible adoption of the nomenclature proposed in 2003 by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and later endorsed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). During the meeting California state and local fire service representatives objected to the complexity of the NCC proposal, fearing that it would confuse frontline public safety personnel. In response to that objection it was explained that the NCC scheme had already been adopted by 11 states; therefore, no other course of action was feasible. Based on that premise the group voted to adopt the NCC scheme for 800MHz interoperability channels only and to table discussion of other bands pending further information.

Since that March meeting a subsequent national survey of regional planning coordinators has revealed the following:

- The FCC has subsequently declined repeated requests from NPSTC to mandate that the NCC naming scheme be made part of FCC Rules. Instead, the FCC deferred to the states to adopt common nomenclature.
- Most are using the NCC nomenclature for 700MHz ONLY. They will continue to use existing I-CALL/I-TAC names for 800MHz for the foreseeable future. There is a lot of resistance to changing what currently exists.
- Only two states have adopted the NCC names for 800MHz: Florida and California.
- New Hampshire has postponed reprogramming in order to study the dissent regarding the NCC nomenclature.
- There is no evidence/information that any state has plans to use the NCC channel names for frequencies below 700MHz.

In addition, a review of several state interoperable communications plans via the APCO International website indicates that the use of the V-CALL/U-CALL/I-CALL nomenclature (as listed in FCC Docket #00-348) is common.

On October 12, 2006, in response to the results of the survey the California FIREScope Board of Directors adopted the following recommendations:

- 1) Delay any further action or adoption of a standard until a national consensus is built.
- 2) Reverse our March 6, 2006 decision to adopt the NCC nomenclature for 800MHz.
- 3) Continue the use of the current V-Call/U-Call/I-Call nomenclature until a national standard is established

Finally, the OES Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee/ FIREScope Board of Directors recognize the importance of this issue and are committed to the development of a national standard for radio interoperability channel nomenclature that is simple and practical; thereby enhancing interoperability between public safety personnel in the field. We are now requesting that the International Association of Fire Chiefs support us in this commitment and in the recommendations listed above.

Your consideration of this request is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE

P. Michael Freeman, Chair
FIREScope Board of Directors

