Use of New Radio Channels and features as of 8/9/2018

Ch. Select #	Name	Scanning	Repeater	Function
1	OPS	None	Yes	Rail Operations
2	Store	None	Yes	Visitor Services/Store/Ticketing/Platform/Parking
3	MOW	None	Yes	Maintenance of Way/Overhead/Track/Car testing/TDB Yard
4	Simplx 1	Ch. 1 only	No	Off Repeater talk around w/Scan Operations
5	Simplx 2	None	No	Off Repeater talk around w/no scanning
6	SimplxAnlg	None	No	Old radio to old radio -- non repeater
7	OPS	All	Yes	Duplicate of #1 w/ scanning
8	Store	All	Yes	Duplicate of #2 w/ scanning
9	MOW	All	Yes	Duplicate of #3 w/ scanning
10	Simplx 4	All	No	Duplicate of #4 w/ scanning
11	Simplx 5	All	No	Duplicate of #5 w/ scanning
12	SimplxAnlg	All	No	Duplicate of #6 w/ scanning
13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	OPS	None	Yes	Rail Operations - Duplicate of Ch. 1

Notes:

The underlying philosophy behind the channel assignments is that the safe movement of cars is foremost. To make that happen, **Channel 1** has absolute priority and radios in use by those engaged in other services such as ticket sales, parking lot attendants, and maintenance of way (MOW) will not interfere with the primary purpose. However, those other services are provided for, including the option to talk radio-to-radio while still automatically scanning the operations channel. See the chart.

Terminology:

Repeater – the unit on top of the county health center that receives each channel and rebroadcasts the signal at higher power for extended range, i.e. from one end of our line to the other.

Simplex -- refers to radio-to-radio communication without the use of the repeater

Talk Around – another term for simplex. Intended for use in close proximity, for example, when towing, coupling, or performing track maintenance and 2 or 3 people need to talk directly to each other without interference.

Analog – refers to the old non-digital radios. This provision is in place to accommodate some of the old units still in use.

Scanning – The feature whereby the radio listens for other transmissions while set to transmit on one specific channel. Scan was previously selected by pushing a small button on the side. That is no longer the case, but rather it is preprogrammed by channel number.

Recommendations:

All operators of service cars should keep their radio set to **Channel 1** on the selector

It is suggested that **dispatcher**s keep their radio set to **Channel 7**. In this mode it transmits on Ch. 1, but monitors all other channels including the Store.

The **Store & Visitor Services** should use their specific **channels (2 or 8),** most especially during such times as County Fair and Special Events. This includes those who are working platforms or parking lots. This is a matter of safety, and doing so keeps transmissions, such as the need for more tickets, off of the Operations channels. During regular operations when there is no dispatcher on duty, if the Store has an urgent need to speak to the service car, they need to switch to Ch. 1.

Auto Answer/Transmit:

This is a programmed in feature whereby when a radio is set to scan all channels, if a transmission is picked up requiring an immediate response, pushing the transmit button within 3 seconds will transmit on that channel regardless of what the selector is set for. This feature may not be immediately available on all radios, but we are working toward activating it.

Duplicate Channel:

All functions of Channel 1, the primary ops channel, are duplicated on Channel 16. Channel 1 and Channel 16 are at opposite ends of the selector switch so in an emergency an operator only needs to know that he/she needs to turn their selector to one extreme or the other without the need to look and see what channel it is set to.