

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



CAL FIRE MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS (MCCs)

USE

Communication is vital to the protection of emergency response personnel. Without adequate communication, people involved in battling the fire can't share valuable information about fire conditions or safety concerns. CAL FIRE's Mobile Communications Centers (MCC) is a rapid response mobile emergency incident communications system. The MCC provides a variety of incident communication support functions. Dispatchers monitor incident radio traffic and communicate with personnel on the incident as well as communicating and coordinating with the Emergency Command Center of the local administrative unit. Inside the MCC there is a general work area with computer workstations, amateur radio (HAM) operator stations, and audiovisual equipment.

The MCC is the hub for communications activity at an emergency incident. It has satellite phone capabilities for those incidents where phone coverage is not available due to remoteness or catastrophic loss of phone service. It provides access to televised weather conditions and local news reports. It also serves as the cache for additional portable radios that are often needed at a large or complex incident.

MCCs respond staffed with two Communications Technical Specialists; personnel trained in emergency dispatch as well as radio maintenance and repair. The MCC can expand to accommodate up to 10-12 staff. There are currently five MCCs in service statewide.

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

10 Channel Dispatch Consoles w/VHF, UHF, Low Band, 800MHz, and VHF-AM Radio Capabilities - Cellular Phones
Hand-held radios - Satellite Telephone Capabilities
HAM Station - Public Address System - Scanners
Telephone Key System - 30' Pneumatic Antenna Mast

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Laptop Computers - Photocopier - Network Printer
Fax Machine - Television - Generator - UPS Backup Power

