



Today's discussion is from the
LCES (Lookouts, Communication, Escape
Routes, and Safety Zones) Category.



COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication is a critical backbone of safe and successful operations.

- Discuss the factors that can affect radio communication at the incident.
 - Knowledge of the radio issued to the individuals
 - Net control, frequencies
 - Line-of-sight restrictions
 - Antenna polarization effect (direction of the antenna)
 - Minimizing noise interference
 - Wide band narrow band

- How can you mitigate potential problems?
 - Implement effective communication procedures--be brief, clear, concise, and to-the-point.
 - Give a good comprehensive briefing. (Refer to the Briefing Checklist inside the back cover of the Incident Response Pocket Guide.)
 - Confirm that relayed information is received, acknowledged, and understood.
 - Keep a continuous information flow (e.g., updates on weather, fire behavior, work progress; changes in strategy/tactics; arrival of additional resources; solicit feedback).
 - Establish emergency check-in procedures.
 - Provide a minimum of 4 radios per 20-person firefighter crew.

- The Five Communication Responsibilities for All Firefighters:
 - Brief others
 - Debrief your actions
 - Communicate hazards to others
 - Acknowledge messages
 - Ask if you don't know

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

[Fireline Handbook](#)

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)

["LCES and Other Thoughts" by Paul Gleason](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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