




COMMUNITY FIREGUARD - YARRA AREA

This document prepared for the 2009/2010 fire season. To assist people with Radio Scanners in and around the following area's; Christmas Hills, Eltham, Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground, Kinglake, Kinglake West, Nth Warrandyte, Panton Hill, Park Orchards, Research, Sth Warrandyte, St Andrews, Warrandyte, Warranwood, Wattle Glen, Wonga Park and surrounds.


Please Note due to terrain or other factors your scanner may not pick up all radio traffic in your area.

1 Operation of the Uniden UBC73XLT scanner

1.1 Simple (to monitor Scanner Channel 1)

- a. Hold Power Button  until unit switches on
- b. Press Hold, 1, Hold.
- c. Turn Volume up. Turn Squelch down until hash noise heard, then turn up slowly until it stops.

1.2 Advanced (to monitor all the above Scanner Channels)

- a. Hold Power Button  until unit switches on
- b. Turn Volume up. Turn Squelch down until hash noise heard, then turn up slowly until it stops.
- c. Check that only Banks 1 and 2 are flashing in top LH corner. If not, press respective number keys to toggle so that just bank 1 (Channels 1-10) and bank 2 (Channels 11-20) are scanned.

2 Operation

- The scanner will scan over all the Channels programmed.
- When the scanner detects an incoming message, it will display the Channel number and stay on that Channel for two seconds after the transmission stops and when scanning restarts.
- Sometimes a faint signal from a distant transmitter may cause the scanner to stop, without any speech being heard - this is normal.
- Read the scanner manual and learn how to lockout (L/O) a Channel if it blocks normal scanning operation.
- If you wish to lock on to a Channel receiving a message, press 'Hold'.
- If there is a bushfire threatening our area, it will be advisable to 'lock out' all Channels which are not directly relevant to our local situation, to avoid their transmissions inadvertently over-riding local information and messages which might be more directly relevant.
- A key information source for our area is the CFA spotters in the Kangaroo Ground Tower (call sign 'Kangaroo Ground Tower') who are usually on duty from about 10am until 6 pm only on "**High Risk days**", unless weather conditions dictate otherwise. The transmissions will come through on Channel 1 (R13) or 2 (R14) and may come through on Channels 3, 12, 15 or 16 as well.

Please Note: Other makes and models of scanners are available please refer to user manual for instructions on use.

3 Weather

CFA no longer broadcast a detailed weather forecast each day during the bushfire risk season, as the messages to firefighters now go out on Pagers. But the KG Tower will give hourly local weather information when they are operating on high risk days. It is advisable to monitor the forecast on the Weather Bureau site www.bom.gov.au or ABC Radio 774 (AM) during high fire risk periods. Look especially for Warnings on this site.

Kangaroo Ground ICC – Emergency Scanners
2009/2010 Fire Season.

Scanner Channel	User	Scanner MHz	CFA code	CFA Channel	Area covered/ Comments
1	CFA Region 13 VicFire from Dunns Hill from Mt St Leonard from Mt Victoria	163.52500 162.68750 162.23750	Region 13	54	All transmissions to and from the VicFire despatch centre to trucks. This is a Voting channel, choose the one which works best at your location Includes Kinglake, Kinglake West, St Andrews, Strathewen, Arthurs Creek, Whittlesea, Plenty Gorge and Diamond Creek. This is a Voting channel
2	CFA Region 14 VicFire From Kinglake	163.56250	Region 14	61	Region Command Channel, KG ICC, Kinglake, Warrandyte, Eltham, St Andrews
3	CFA Region 13 Main	161.11250	13A	55	'Go to' Channels to enable truck to truck , Strike-team Leader, Sector Commander, communication, short distance at Fire-ground
4	KG ICC Sector 1 & Default Fire-Ground Channel	161.175	13B	56	
5	KG ICC Sector 2	161.38750	DSE-PP3	113	
6	KG ICC Sector 3	161.00000	6C	18	
7	KG ICC Sector 4	161.12500	20A	87	
8	DSE fire ground communication	161.26250	DSE-PP1	111	DSE / Parks Victoria
9	DSE fire ground communication	161.37500	DSE-PP2	112	DSE / Parks Victoria
10	CFA Fire Spotter Aircraft	161.21250		107	Call sign either "Birddog13" or "Firespotter13"
11	CFA Region 12 Main	161.01250	Region 12A	49	Region Command channel, North of Kinglake range, Flowerdale, Glenburn, Yea
12	CFA Region 14 Main	161.06250	Region 14A	62	Region Command channel, Diamond Creek, Whittlesea, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek, Strathewen
13	CFA Region 14 Go to 1 Default FGD 1	161.15000	14B	63	'Go to' Channels to enable truck to truck , Strike-team Leader, Sector Commander, communication, short distance at Fire-ground
14	CFA Region 14 Go to 2 Default FGD 2	161.05000	14C	64	
15	CFA Incident Management Channel	165.12500	IMC	9	Kinglake, Kinglake West, St Andrews area IMC. KG ICC Main Command Channel
16	CFA Incident Management Channel	163.38750	IMC	66	Nillumbik Shire Area IMC KG ICC Main Command Channel
17	DSE/CFA Incident Management Channel	163.06250	IMC	154	Mt Macedon. KG ICC fallback West
18	DSE/CFA Incident Management Channel	163.02500	IMC	156	Dunns Hill. Knox Group Main Command channel. KG ICC fallback South
19	DSE/CFA Incident Management Channel	163.62500	IMC	157	Mt St Leonard. KG ICC fallback Command channel East
20	DSE/CFA Incident Management Channel	163.62500	IMC	157	Mt Despair. KG ICC fallback Command channel North East

4 Terminology

4.1 Vehicles/Appliances:

- Pumper:** Generally a 2WD fire fighting vehicle, designed for urban operations, equipped with a large capacity pump and a limited capacity water tank. Requires reticulated water.
- Tanker:** Either 2WD or 4WD fire fighting vehicle designed for rural operations. Most common Tank capacities are 2000 litre and 3000 litre. There are other sizes.
- Slip-on:** Usually 4WD comprising a small water tank (400litres), pump and hose reel and auxiliary fire fighting equipment.
- Car:** A brigade vehicle which is used for crew transport, command & control and gaining intelligence on the incident.

4.2 Radio traffic common use items:

- Vehicle name:** The method used to identify the appliance type and home location. CFA appliances all have place names (e.g. Warrandyte Pumper) and the MFB appliances use numbers (e.g. Water Tanker 30)
- Control Point:** The first CFA unit (e.g. North Warrandyte tanker 1) to reach the scene of a fire incident may be re-titled e.g. 'Bradleys Lane Control' to control all future radio traffic for that incident.
- Fire Call:** Used by a CFA crew to report a new fire/incident to VicFire via radio.
- Driving:** **Code 1:** Drive with siren and flashing lights. **Code 3:** Normal driving.
- On Scene:** Message given when an appliance arrives at the scene of a fire / incident. Usually accompanied by address (1st Appliance will make a control point – see above)
- Word back:** A precise definition of the type, condition and status of the fire or incident which will use the pro-words listed below. It will also include the Incident Controller name and exact location.
- Not Yet Under Control:** Additional appliances/personnel/equipment will be needed to bring it under control
- Under Control:** Appliances in attendance or en-route are sufficient to contain the fire.
- Fire / Incident stop:** Resources in attendance are sufficient and any resources en-route are no longer required and can return to station.
- Investigating** Nothing visible & further investigation required (not actually a wordback any longer).
- Sit Rep:** Radio message giving details of the fire or incident (i.e. size of fire, resources committed, expected time commitment or other relevant information).
- Message** A radio transmission used to replay information or request another service attend (e.g. power company or police).
- Returning** An Appliance is returning to station.
- In Station** An Appliance is in station and ready to respond to next call.

Prepared by CFG Facilitator Troy Lowther.

References: Lou Simonis (LYG Manager Communications), David Hogg & Pound Road Warrandyte CFG, Phil Clark, January 2009 & Region 13, updated, 'Scanners'.