

**ST. LOUIS AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER,  
LAMBERT-ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY,  
LAMBERT-ST. LOUIS AIRPORT AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING UNIT  
LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

**EFFECTIVE: 04/20/00**

**SUBJ: Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) – Operating Procedures**

**1. PURPOSE:** To establish operating procedures for direct radio communication between St. Louis ARFF emergency personnel, the aircraft flight crew, and the St. Louis Airport Traffic Control Tower.

**2. SCOPE:** The procedures outlined herein describe the authorization, use, and limitations of a Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF). This Letter of Agreement (LOA) is used in conjunction with, and subordinate to, existing agreements between the St. Louis ATCT, the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport Authority, and the Lambert-St. Louis Airport Aircraft Rescue And Fire Fighting Unit to provide emergency services. This LOA may be terminated by any signatory, successor, or their designated representative by written notice to the other parties.

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES:** Each party to this agreement is responsible for compliance with the provisions contained herein by personnel under their authority. Training, both initial and recurrent, of involved personnel is also the responsibility of the signatories.

**4. ST. LOUIS ATCT PROCEDURES:**

- a. Upon initiating a call for emergency response, St. Louis ATCT shall utilize the Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) to the extent feasible. In cases where assignment of the DECF to the emergency aircraft is not possible, notify the ARFF that the aircraft is not on the DECF.

***NOTE:** Frequency 134.375 is the primary DECF frequency, and shall be utilized consistent with the availability of the frequency, as this also serves as a backup ATC frequency for the control tower.*

- b. The St. Louis ATCT Supervisor may elect to have a separate controller coordinate the emergency/incident.
- c. The controller assigned to coordinate the emergency shall coordinate (with all appropriate operating positions), for the arrival of the aircraft and the intent/request of responding vehicles to follow the emergency aircraft onto the active runway.
- d. In the event that the emergency/incident involves an arriving aircraft, St. Louis ATCT may direct the St. Louis Terminal RADAR Approach Control facility (T75 TRACON) to assign the aircraft the DECF when switching the inbound emergency to tower frequency. In this case, the DECF will serve as the 'tower frequency' for this aircraft.
- e. When it is known that the ARFF emergency personnel are utilizing, and standing by on, the same frequency as the emergency aircraft, St. Louis ATCT shall make this known to the emergency aircraft. Phraseology: "St. Louis ARFF UNIT is also on this frequency."

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- f. The controller assigned to coordinate the emergency may allow the ARFF Incident Commander (call sign: “**Truck 42 or Truck 50**”) and/or the St. Louis Airport Authority representative to communicate directly with the flight crew of the emergency aircraft. Phraseology: “**Truck 42 (or Truck 50), you have the frequency**”.

#### 5. AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING UNIT PROCEDURES:

##### a. During ATC initiated airfield responses:

- (1) All emergency “**command vehicles**” responding to the emergency shall utilize the designated Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) to establish and maintain contact with the emergency aircraft. ( Normal communications with the control tower shall remain on Ground Control frequency 121.9).

***NOTE:*** *The Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) will be assigned by St. Louis ATCT. Frequency 134.375 is the preferred frequency, and will be the frequency that will most often be utilized.*

- (2) If necessary, the ARFF Incident Commander, (in Truck 42 or Truck 50), and/or the St. Louis Airport Authority representative may request permission from St. Louis ATCT to convey emergency information to, or request vital information from, the flight crew of the aircraft involved in the emergency.

***NOTE:*** *To preclude blocking critical ATC instructions, the ARFF Incident Commander and the Airport Authority representative must request permission from the control tower prior to communicating with the emergency aircraft on the DECF.*

- (3) At no time during direct communication with an aircraft shall emergency personnel say anything that may be implied or misinterpreted as an ATC instruction or clearance.

##### b. During other than ATC initiated responses:

- (1) The Remote Fire House shall notify St. Louis ATCT on Ground Control frequency 121.9 as soon as possible, of all responses to the ‘airfield’ side of the Airline Terminals.
- (2) All emergency vehicles responding to an emergency from the Main Fire House shall establish contact with St. Louis ATCT utilizing Ground Control frequency 121.9, and ensure that an ATC clearance is received prior to proceeding onto, or crossing, any runway.

***NOTE:*** *Paragraph b. above primarily pertains to situations where fire-rescue vehicles are responding prior to the notification being made to the St. Louis ATCT Supervisor. In situations where notification to St. Louis ATCT can be made early enough to allow implementation of the DECF (i.e., notification is made before the vehicles have started to respond), the St. Louis Tower Supervisor has the option to utilize/implement the DECF procedures as outlined in this agreement.*

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**6. AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE PROCEDURES:**

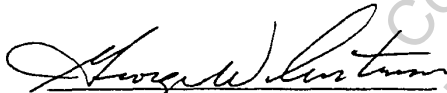
a. During ATC initiated airfield responses:

All Airport Authority command vehicles responding to the emergency shall utilize the designated Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) to monitor and establish necessary contact with the emergency aircraft. ( Normal communications with the control tower shall remain on Ground Control frequency 121.9).

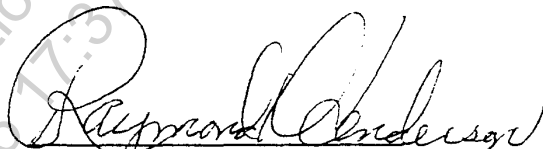
***NOTE:** The Discrete Emergency Coordination Frequency (DECF) will be assigned by St. Louis ATCT. Frequency 134.375 is the preferred frequency, and will be the frequency that will most often be utilized.*

b. During other than ATC initiated responses:

When responding to an emergency at one of the Airline Terminals, the St. Louis Airport Authority representative shall establish contact with St. Louis ATCT utilizing Ground Control frequency 121.9, and ensure that an ATC clearance is received prior to proceeding onto, or crossing, any runway.



George W. Antrim, Manager  
St. Louis Airport Traffic Control Tower



Raymond Henderson, Chief, District 8  
City of St. Louis Fire Department



Leonard L. Griggs, Director Airport Authority  
Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

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