Frequency Chart Help

This quick information sheet is intended to provide some hints for first responders and non-technical personnel attempting to fill out the Frequency Chart. It is most helpful if your radio shop can assist with this form however if you have basic knowledge of your radio system you will probably be able to answer most questions. Please bother your radio shop for correct answers rather than guessing or using questionable information. That is what you pay them for.

Agency / Date - This is the easy part.

Channel Name - What do you call this channel when you tell someone to turn to that channel?

Alpha Tag - This is what your radio display indicates when you are on that channel.
Hint - Try to make all your radios the same to minimize confusion. Also, most radios have displays of 8 characters, 12 characters a bit more infrequently. There are only a small number of expensive radios with 14 character displays so try to avoid using more than 8-12 characters.

RX Frequency - The frequency that your radios receives on. If you have a repeater it transmits on this – frequency.

RX PL / DPL - This is the PL (Private Line, Channel Guard, CTCSS tone) or DPL (digital private line) that is required by your radio to open the squelch. Many users do not use a receive private line. If so please indicate carrier squelch (CS).

Some examples: PL - 141.3 or 141.3 hz. A 2 character code such as "4A" may also be used.
DPL - 703 or 703N or 703I. This is typically a 3 digit number sometimes with a letter.
Carrier Squelch - CS or Blank.

TX PL / DPL - This is the PL / DPL that your radio transmits. It may be required by your repeater. See above.

Paging Tones A and B - These are the tones necessary to open the squelch on your pagers. Tones are typically a 3 or 4 digit number followed by a decimal and a single digit. Some examples are: 330.5 and 1092.4. Please try to find your original documentation. Over the years these tend to become less accurate as errors are made in programming pagers. The best performance will be obtained from your pagers if you have the correct tones programmed.

Purpose - What do you use this channel for? Some examples: Dispatch, fireground ops, tactical, watersupply.

Mutual Aid Agencies - In the vertical columns directly under "Mutual Aid Agencies" list the agencies that you consider to be your mutual aid providers or to whom you provide assistance. Under the agencies please put an "X" in the box for each frequency that you would use to communicate with that agency.

Hints:

Many on-call agencies find that using the last channel set up with pager tones as a replacement for expensive tone and voice pagers. When the radio is on this channel (not scanning) it will be silent until your agency's tones are transmitted. Avoid having a pager channel next to a primary use channel to prevent users from accidentally selecting the pager channel.

Try to minimize the number of channels used by agreeing on mutual aid channels.