HAVASU NEWS NETWORK

Dispatch Live

SCANNER & RADIO GUIDE

A clear, practical guide to understanding public-safety radio.
Learn what you might hear, common dispatch terms, 10-codes, and how to interpret fast-moving radio traffic.

LAKE HAVASU PUBLIC SAFETY

Police | Fire | Sheriff

What is HNN Dispatch Live? An informational audio stream of selected public-safety radio traffic available to HNN. It is not an emergency notification service, and it does not include every transmission or incident.

Start listening: Open the Dispatch Live player, press Play, and adjust the volume. If the feed is quiet, there may simply be no traffic at that moment.

Listener notice: Radio codes, procedures and channel usage can differ by agency. This guide is educational, not an official agency codebook. Always rely on official alerts and public-safety instructions.

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01 | How dispatch works

A scanner receives radio communications; it does not transmit. HNN listeners may hear only selected police, fire and sheriff traffic. Some communications may be encrypted, use other talkgroups, or fall outside the monitored feed.

A typical call, from start to finish

STAGE	WHAT YOU MAY HEAR
1 Call received	A 911 report, non-emergency request, alarm or field observation.
2 Dispatch enters details	Location, type of incident, priority and available information recorded in CAD.
3 Units assigned	Dispatcher sends one or more units; units acknowledge.
4 Responding / arriving	En route, on scene, staging or requests for additional help.
5 Updates / disposition	Further details, transfer, transport, citation, report, cancellation or clearing.

Local technology update

Lake Havasu City launched its Motorola Flex computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system in February 2026, with an updated fire-station alerting system. CAD helps personnel manage incident records and unit dispatching. This does not by itself indicate a change to radio frequencies or what the HNN feed carries.

Know these terms

TERM	MEANING
Dispatch	Communications center coordinating field resources.
Channel / talkgroup	A radio communications path within a system.
Unit / call sign	Identifier for an officer, crew, apparatus or team.
Encrypted	Audio protected from unauthorized monitoring.

Listening tip: Focus on where the incident is, which units are responding, what kind of call it is, and whether the situation is still active.

02 | Radio shorthand and 10-codes

Codes are not universal. Different agencies can use different meanings, and some use plain language. FEMA recommends clear, plain-language communications during multiagency incidents. Treat this page as a general reference, not a verified Lake Havasu agency code list.

Everyday radio language

TERM	COMMON MEANING
ATL / BOLO	Attempt to locate / be on the lookout.
RP	Reporting party: the person making the report.
GOA / UTL	Gone on arrival / unable to locate.
ETA	Estimated time of arrival.
Code 4	Often means no additional assistance needed; usage varies.
Copy / stand by	Message acknowledged / wait for further instructions.
Clear / en route / on scene	Finished or available / traveling / arrived.
Priority traffic	Important traffic; others may be asked to keep the channel clear.

Frequently encountered 10-codes

CODE	POSSIBLE MEANING	CODE	POSSIBLE MEANING
10-4	Acknowledged	10-7	Out of service
10-8	In service	10-9	Repeat transmission
10-20	Location	10-21	Call by telephone
10-22	Disregard / cancel	10-23	Arrived on scene
10-27	Driver license info	10-28	Registration info
10-29	Records / warrants check	10-33	Emergency traffic
10-97	On scene in some systems	10-98	Assignment complete in some systems

Important: Do not assign a fixed meaning to ambiguous codes such as 10-10 or 10-15 based on a generic list. Context and agency procedure matter.

03 | Police, fire and EMS language

Each discipline uses its own call signs, apparatus names, abbreviations and incident commands. These descriptions are illustrative; local usage may differ.

Fire and medical terms

TERM	WHAT IT USUALLY MEANS
Engine	Fire apparatus carrying personnel, tools, hoses and water.
Truck / ladder	Apparatus used for aerial access, ventilation and rescue.
Medic / ambulance	Medical response or patient-transport unit; labels vary.
Battalion / BC	A command or supervisory officer.
Working fire	Confirmed fire requiring active suppression operations.
Staging	Location where responding resources wait for assignment.
Incident command	Structure for directing and coordinating an incident.
Patient contact / transport	Patient evaluation has begun / patient is being transported.
Mutual aid	Resources or assistance from another agency.

What unit status can tell you

STATUS	LISTENER INTERPRETATION
En route	Responder traveling toward the incident.
On scene	Responder has arrived, but the situation may still be developing.
Clear	Unit finished with an assignment or available; exact use varies.
Canceled	Response or assignment canceled; it does not prove no incident occurred.
Transferred	Call or communication passed to another unit, channel or agency.

Why the feed may change: A quiet or interrupted stream can reflect low call volume, encryption, different talkgroups, internet issues, maintenance or other technical problems. Silence is not proof that nothing is happening.

04 | Quick listener reference

When a transmission moves quickly, use these five questions to understand it without guessing.

ASK	LISTEN FOR
WHERE?	Street, cross street, landmark, highway or general area.
WHAT?	Crash, medical incident, fire, alarm, disturbance or other call type.
WHO?	Unit number, agency, assigned engine or responding crew.
STATUS?	En route, on scene, staging, transport, cleared or canceled.
VERIFIED?	Has the agency or HNN confirmed the information beyond initial radio traffic?

Responsible listening

Radio traffic is preliminary. Dispatch information can be incomplete, corrected or misunderstood. Do not treat first reports as confirmed facts or share identifying medical information unnecessarily.

Never interfere with responders. Do not travel to an active incident to watch, and do not rely on a scanner for evacuation orders or immediate safety decisions. For emergencies, call 911.

For verified information, follow public-safety agencies and official local government notices. HNN reporting should distinguish confirmed facts from developing details.

Sources and editorial notes

Local CAD update: Lake Havasu City Fire Department 2025 Annual Report (describes February 10, 2026 implementation).

Plain-language guidance: FEMA National Incident Management System, communications standards.

Terms and generic 10-code examples adapted and condensed from the earlier HNN Dispatch Live Scanner & Radio Guide. These are not verified local agency code assignments.

KEEP LISTENING. STAY INFORMED.
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