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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to define the use of radio communications.

COMMENTARY:

Good communications is a must in order to answer calls in a safe and timely manner.

Radio communications, in this guideline, will include any hand held, vehicle mounted, or base station radio owned by the Fire Department, and any personally owned hand held, vehicle mounted, or base station radio used for Fire Department business.

PROCEDURES:

Radio traffic shall remain clear, concise and mission essential.

All firefighters are responsible for having a thorough knowledge of the radio system and the radio communications standard operating guideline prior to operating any two-way radio.

All firefighters are required to use Plain Text when communicating on any two-way radio.

Plain Text, in this guideline, will be defined as not using 10-codes or any local radio codes.

No radio traffic will occur until the first fire truck is manned and en route to the scene.

If radio traffic is necessary prior to your arrival at the fire station, it will be transmitted on the fire department frequency.

Radio traffic for the first out truck will consist of the following:

Acknowledgement of page status
 What truck is en route
 How many personnel are on the truck
 Repeat the address responding to
 Additional information on scene status can be obtained from dispatch while en route

Radio traffic for all additional responding units will not be directed at anyone. It will be a statement of the following information:

What truck is en route
 How many personnel are on the truck

The first On Scene truck will provide the following information to dispatch:

What truck is on scene
 Initial impression of the scene
 What the name of the command will be
 Who will be in command

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From the time command is established the Incident Commander will be the only person communicating with dispatch. After the Incident Commander evaluates the scene he/she will provide a more through scene size-up to dispatch and all responding agencies.

See Command SOG

All additional responding units will coordinate via radio traffic with the Incident Commander prior to arrival to receive their specific duties.

While on scene, all radio traffic between the Incident Commander and on scene units will be limited to mission essential radio traffic only.

The last unit to leave the scene will inform dispatch of the following:

Fire Command is terminated
All units are clear from the scene

The last unit to return to the fire station will inform dispatch of the following:

All units are back at the station
Thank you for all your help