Fireground Communications

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document provides on-scene communication procedures for Euless Fire Department units operating on emergency incidents.

Corresponding Policies:

>Fireground Accountability
>Hazardous Materials Response
>High-Rise Incident Management
>Incident Management
>Mobile Data Terminal Use
>Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out
>Staging

400.2 FIRST FIVE MINUTES

When practicable and when applicable, the following communications should include, but not be limited to:

#Communications to Dispatch from the first arriving Euless Fire Department unit:

- Unit on-scene

- Initial scene size-up

- Unit assuming incident command (IC)

- Declaration of a working incident

- Location of primary (Level 1) staging area

- Cancel or request additional resources and next level alarms as required due to the size and nature of the incident and based on results of a 360 assessment.

- Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) request

- Declaration of command mode

- Declaration of an offensive or defensive strategy

#Communications from Dispatch to the IC and incoming units:

- Fireground operations channels

- Location of the primary (Level 1) staging area

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- Confirmation of additional resources and alarms requested

#Communications from the IC to incoming units:

- Instructions to any units needed to immediately operate at the scene, including:

  - Where units should position

  - Task assignments

  - Structure entry points

  - Advise as to any special tools or equipment personnel may need to accomplish assigned tasks

  - Department accountability system check-in location

400.3 PROCEDURES

400.3.1 RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

(a) Apparatus

1. When directed by Dispatch apparatus radios should be tuned to the fireground operations channel while en route and on-scene. Officers should acknowledge assignments clearly and concisely to avoid unnecessary radio traffic but otherwise should generally avoid using the fireground operations channel while en route unless called.

(b) Personnel

1. Personnel operating within an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environment should each have a portable radio tuned to the fireground frequency.

2. Personnel operating on the fireground should keep radio communications to a minimum when possible.

400.3.2 OPERATIONS
Fireground communications may include:

(a) Emergency Traffic Declaration

1. A request for an emergency traffic declaration should be reserved for situations involving immediate danger to personnel. Examples of situations that warrant an emergency traffic declaration include:

   - Structure evacuation

   - Unexpected building collapse or sudden change in conditions

   - Serious injury to personnel

   - Motor vehicle accident involving fire department equipment that results in injuries

   - An unstable situation in which personnel are being assaulted or physically threatened

2. A member requesting an emergency traffic declaration should radio IC with a transmission similar to: "Incident Command from Engine 1 with Emergency

Traffic." Personnel should take a short pause, then go ahead with emergency traffic.

3. The IC should acknowledge and repeat the emergency transmission and take any necessary action.

4. When an emergency traffic declaration is made all other radio traffic should be held until the emergency traffic message is delivered and acknowledged.

5. Once the emergency traffic is completed, the member making the emergency traffic declaration should conclude the message with a transmission similar to "All clear, resume radio traffic."

(b) Mayday from a lost, injured or trapped firefighter

1. Mayday communications should follow the Mayday procedure and Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out policy.

(c) Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) Communications

1. Incident on-scene and working time should be tracked by Dispatch and prompt the IC every 15 minutes for a status report. The IC should use this time prompt to determine whether a PAR should be called. When the IC requests, all non-emergency radio traffic unrelated to the PAR should cease until the PAR is concluded. The company officer or crew leader should respond with this information:

(a) Unit number or designation

(b) Number of personnel

(c) Location

(d) Current assignment/function

400.4 UNIVERSAL PRACTICES

1. Radio communications on the fireground should be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant.

2. Personnel operating on the emergency scene should remain aware of radio traffic and wait for breaks to avoid "walking over" other transmissions, unless there is a need to request an emergency traffic declaration.

3. Radio transmissions should be made using plain language and unit designations instead of names. Use of codes should be avoided in all transmissions.

4. Personnel should acknowledge receipt of transmissions/orders and repeat. The repeat doesn't need to duplicate the original message word for word, but it should be a brief and concise summary of the message's intent. For example:

• "Engine 1, from Command, take a 1 ¾" pre-connect to the door on Side C." "Engine 1 recieved, 1 ¾" pre-connect to Door Side C."

5. Personnel should decide what to say before pressing the transmit button.

6. When practicable, personnel should hold the radio microphone a few inches from the mouth to avoid audio distortion.

7. Personnel should not hold a portable radio with the antenna touching or very close to exposed skin, especially the eyes or face, when transmitting.

8. Portable radios should not be operated in an explosive atmosphere unless they are rated as intrinsically safe for fireground operations.

400.5 PROCEDURE DECISION TREE