Purpose:

This policy determines the types of Communications "Traffic" Modes defined for use within the San Diego County operational area.

Policy:

This policy is intended to provide a common approach to how personnel use terminology related to communication traffic.

Procedure:

The following communications traffic modes will be used in the San Diego County operational area:

- Administrative traffic
- Incident traffic
- Priority traffic
- Emergency traffic

Administrative Traffic (mode)

Administrative Traffic is defined as radio traffic used to manage fire department/agency resources outside of active incidents, to include but not limited to move ups, out of service requests, etc. This traffic typically occurs on the department/agencies administrative, call or dispatch channel.

Incident Traffic (mode)

Incident Traffic is defined as radio traffic that routinely occurs while managing, responding and operating during an incident. This typically occurs on the command and/or tactical channels, regardless of their assigned usage.

Priority Traffic (mode)

Priority Traffic is defined as radio traffic that is of an urgent but non-emergency nature, such as but not limited to: initial report of an incident or fire incident not previously reported, or report of an injury/non-injury traffic accident involving a fire agency apparatus. Priority traffic occurring on the department/agencies administrative, call or dispatch channel takes precedence over administrative traffic. Priority traffic may also be used while on an incident to convey an important message that must take priority over other

incident traffic, but is not yet of an emergency nature, such as reporting imminent collapse or changing modes from offensive to defensive.

Emergency Traffic (mode)

Emergency Traffic is traffic that occurs when a firefighter(s) is in immediate peril of injury, is injured, lost and/or unaccounted, entrapped, or any other situation that could result in the loss or serious injury of a firefighter. Emergency traffic can be initiated by any personnel on or off the incident ground using terms such as "mayday," "firefighter down," "help," etc. The use or activation of an emergency button shall also initiate this mode. Emergency traffic should first be initiated on the tactical or command channels, but can also occur on the department's emergency channel and/or administrative channels. Regardless of where the initiation occurs Emergency traffic will take precedence over all other traffic and the channel emergency traffic is initiated on shall be cleared for the handling of this traffic.

Operational Approach

All personnel should practice and implement the modes as defined above. Communications dispatch centers should be trained on the management of all communication traffic modes and have internal policies and documents updated to match these policies.