



SAN DIEGO FIRE RESCUE-DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Radio Communication



IN-SERVICE TRAINING

13-01



Objectives

Radio Communications

- Provide an established list of ICS Commands, Titles, Terms and Orders to be use during emergency incidents.
- Review the San Diego County Operational Area Radio Procedures Policy and explain its application.
- Establish a standard radio communication script and terminology.
- Demonstrate the use of the ICS System, Radio Communication and Tactics.



Radio Communications

Good Practices

- **Radio Communication**
 - *Always listed as an Issue at EVERY Incident*
 - *Good Practices*
 - **Pause after pressing PTT**
 - **Talk Slowly & CLEARLY**
 - **Hold Radio 2” from Mouth**



Radio Communications



BRIEF INITIAL REPORT

Ops Manual S01, Sec 1

- Unit Designation
- A Brief Description of the Incident Situation
 - *Building Size & Occupancy*
 - *HazMat Release*
 - *Multi-Vehicle Accident*
 - *Etc.*
- Brief description of action taken
- Any obvious safety concerns
- Assumption and identification of Incident Command



Radio Communications



A Brief Description of the Incident Situation

Ops Manual S01, Sec 1

- Building Size & Occupancy
 - *Number of Stories*
 - Single Story, 3 Story, Multi-Story
 - *Occupancy*
 - State the Business **NAME**
 - *If Common – Everybody Recognizes*
 - Commercial, Office, School, Restaurant
 - Residential, Apartments, Dorm
 - *Side of the Building*
 - Only, if it has Impact on Response
 - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta



Radio Communications



A Brief Description of the Incident Situation

Ops Manual S01, Sec 1

- HazMat Release
 - *Containers Releasing Product*
 - 55 Gallon Drum, Storage Tank, Railcar, Trailer
- Multi-Vehicle Accident
 - *Vehicles*
 - *Number*
 - *Other than typical Autos*
 - *Number of Patients (if known)*



Radio Communications

ACTIONS TAKEN & SAFETY CONCERNS

- **Brief description of action taken**
 - *Investigating*
 - *Laying a Line and Attacking the Fire*
 - If a Working Fire, You **MUST** Identify Water Sources
 - *Looking for Access*
- **Obvious Safety Concerns**
 - *Electrical Boxes, Down Wires*
 - *Collapse, Rapid Spread, Hazardous Combustibles*
 - *Traffic*



Radio Communications

Incident Command

- **Assumption and Identifying Incident Command**
 - *Keep it Simple*
 - One Word
 - Easy to Say
 - *Assist in Identifying Location of Incident*
 - Business Names
 - Street
 - Area



Radio Communications

Sample Initial Reports

- *Engine 48 at scene of a 2 story single family dwelling with smoke and fire showing. We are laying a line, attacking the fire. Assuming River IC.*
- *Engine 48 at scene of a 3 story office building with light smoke showing from the Charlie side of the structure. We are investigating. Assuming Logan IC. Break, Engine 49 respond to the west alley.*
- *Engine 48 at scene of a one story Chili's Restaurant with heavy smoke and fire showing from the kitchen area. We are spotted on a hydrant attacking the fire. Assuming Chili IC.*



Radio Communications

Command Terms for Assignment

- Giving an Assignment
 - *Unit ID*
 - *Assigned Position Title*
 - Only Necessary If expanding within ICS
 - *Objectives*
 - Brief and to the point
 - even One Word
 - *Units Assigned*



Radio Communications

Command Terms for Assignment

- **Receiving an Assignment**
 - *State you 'COPY' then Repeat Assignment*
 - Do Not Simply say, "COPY"



Radio Communications

Unit ID, Assigned Position/Title, Objectives, Units Assigned

- **Engine 2, you are Fire Attack. Back Up Line, Primary Search and Assume Engine 1's Firefighters**
 - *Engine 2 Copies, Fire attack, Back Up Line, Primary and assume Engine 1's Firefighters*

- **Engine 1, you are Division 3, ~~go to 3rd floor~~, Exposure Line, Check for Extension and Primary Search**
 - *Engine 1, copies. Division 3, exposure line, check for extension and primary.*

- **Truck 11, you are Ventilation Group, Secure Utilities and Coordinate with Fire Attack who is Engine 2**
 - *Truck 11 copies. Vent Group, Secure Utilities, coordinate with Engine 2 Fire Attack*



Radio Communications

Unit ID, Assigned Position/Title, Objectives, Units Assigned

- Engine 23, you are Fire Attack. Check the A/P, Report on Conditions (PPN). Assume Division of Fire Floor. You have Engine 28 & Truck 28 assigned to you.
 - *Engine 23 Copies. Fire Attack, Check A/P, Report on Conditions and Assume Division of Fire Floor. I have Engine 28, Truck 28 assigned.*
- Engine 36, you are Staging assume IRIC.
 - *Engine 36, Copies. Staging, assuming IRIC*
- Engine 23 Engineer, you are Water Supply Group. Secure a Water Supply and Charge FDC's, you have Engine 28's Engineer assigned to you.
 - *E23 Engineer copies. Water Supply Group, secure water supply and charge FDC's. I have Engine 28's Engineer assigned.*



Common Terms

Radio Communications

➤ “Laying a line”

- *Actual laid a line not “just saying it”*
- *Avoid middle of street*
- *Do not assign firefighting duties to non-firefighting personnel*
- *Make room for the truck*
- *When requesting the next in unit to “LAY A LINE”, identify the unit YOU want to lay the line, if you don’t know, ask FCC*
 - **“Engine 36 from IC, lay a line to Engine 28 in the Alley”**
 - **“Engine 36 copies, lay a line to Engine 28 in the Alley”**

➤ “Securing a Water Supply”

- *Spotted on a Hydrant*
- *Always consider a 2nd Water Supply (commercial, future Ladder Pipe)*



Common Orders

Radio Communications



➤ “Attack the Fire” / “Take a Line”

- *Minimum of 3 Hose Lines on every Working Fire*

1. *Attack line*

- *Typically 1 ¾ (is this the right size line for the job?)*
- *Big fire = Big water*

2. *Back up line*

- *Equal to in size and diameter or larger*
- *Master Streams/Play Pipes, 2 ½ Hoseline*

3. *Exposure lines*

- *Checking or Protecting Exposures*
- *Interior : Upper floors, Div 2, 3,4 or laterally Division B, C and D*
- *Exterior exposure protection with water curtain, not on the involved unit.
Know proper methods of exposure protection*



Common Orders

Radio Communications

➤ “Establish RIC” / “You are RIC”

- *Give me a 360*
- *Soften Structure*
- *Sketch a map for IC*
- *No need to say grab cache (All Should KNOW EQUIPMENT)*

➤ “Perform Ventilation”

- *Horizontal or Vertical (roof)*
- *Coordinate with Fire Attack or Interior*
- *DO NOT start Blower with out confirmation*



Common Orders

Radio Communications

➤ “Secure Utilities”

- *Electrical*
- *Solar*
- *Gas*
- *Water*
- *Person securing utilities confirm task completion with I/C*

➤ “Check for Extension”

- *Do not rely on the TIC*
- *Working fire, aggressively check for extension above*
- *Pull ceilings, Open walls, Check floors*

➤ Perform Salvage

- *Floors below/involved unit, etc....*
- *Communicate that water is secured (make sure Fire is out)*



Orders to Avoid *Radio Communications*

- Our goal is to condense our Radio Communication as we adapt to the new Command/Tactical Radio Procedures.
- The following examples should not be used as they are not necessary:
 - **“All units switch to TAC”** (not done until an assignment)
 - *Medical Aid (7E, 7F) and T/A (7H, 7I) communicate to incoming units as past practice so we do not clog the radio on CMD*
 - *Two unit response, Communicate on the Tac with each other*



Orders to Avoid Radio Communications

- **“All units go to Primary Staging”** (this is KNOWN)
 - *It's OK to tell incoming units to stay on street*
 - *Provide specific information as necessary*

- **Primary Staging**
 - *One Block away from Incident*
 - *Hydrant*



Orders to Avoid Radio Communications

- **“San Diego, you can cancel all units?”**
 - *You as IC are the person to cancel incoming units*
- **“All Units continue”**
 - *no need to mention, units are responding until further info is stated like reduce code*
- **“Get your Gear, Suit Up”**
 - *You are responding to an incident and should be in the correct PPE prior to responding. (Engineers in turnout pants) Unless specific equipment request are made, then SCBA, FE tool and equipment needed to complete your assigned task should be in hand.*



Phonetic Alphabet

International Version



A - Alpha

G - Golf

M - Mike

T - Tango

B - Bravo

H - Hotel

N - November

U - Uniform

C - Charlie

I - India

O - Oscar

V - Victor

D - Delta

J - Juliet

P - Papa

W - Whiskey

E - Echo

K - Kilo

Q - Quebec

X - X-Ray

F - Foxtrot

L - Lima

R - Romeo

Y - Yankee

S - Sierra

Z - Zulu



Status Updates

P P N

● **Position**

- *What is your location?*
- *On the Second Floor, Outside on Charlie, Third Floor Delta Stairwell*

● **Progress**

- *What objectives have you completed?*
- *Stretching Hoseline, Knocked Down Fire, Performing Primary*

● **Needs**

- *What resources or equipment do you need?*
- *Ventilation in the basement, An Additional Company*



Outside Request

Radio Communications

- San Diego Gas & Electric (**SDG&E**)
 - *Advise what is needed*
 - *GAS*
 - *ELECTRIC*
 - *Or Both Gas and Electric*
- **PD Request**
 - *State Reason of Need*
- **Red Cross Request**
 - *State Number of:*
 - *Persons*
 - *Age*
 - *Gender*



Good Practices

Radio Communications

- **Remain 'Available' when Traveling**
 - *If you are properly Equipped and Staffed*
 - *Remain available until Arrival at Destination*
 - *Unless mechanical OOS, you remain available until arrival at destination*
- **Use your MDC (if equipped)**
 - *do not voice Available via radio*
 - *unless MDC Down or Away from Apparatus*
- **AVOID Radio Feedback**
 - *Transmitting Near Other Radio Speakers*
 - *Crew Member working close to each*



Good Practices

Radio Communications

Conventional Firemars Direct

CNV FMARd

Zone '13P'

We no longer use 'CARS1'



Adding Yourself to a Response



Ops Manual SI1, Sec 6

- Dispatch Philosophy:

Individual company officers may add themselves to incidents if, in the opinion of that officer, the unit's presence on the incident will significantly enhance public and firefighter safety. Each officer will be responsible to justify their response.

- a. Look at your MDC and know your location and the location of responding units.
- b. Drive no code in the direction of travel until assigned (if FCC Ok's).
- c. This causes a domino effect with FCC and the dispatchers. They will have to decide who to cancel from the call
- d. If FCC does not respond to your call, they are probably on a 911 call
- e. If you are going to be 3rd in on a structure, YOU will probably not make a significant impact
- f. A Highrise response with T1& T11, T20 from the valley will not make a significant impact



Radio Communications



Thank you

Questions???



Sample Slide

Titles

- **Example**
 - *Stuff*
 - *Stuff*
 - **Info**
 - **Info**
 - Defining
 - Telling
 - *Explaining*