

14. SPECIAL FIRE POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

14.1 GENERAL

The County of Cumberland has assigned specific talk groups for incident communications needs for Special Fire Police. Special Fire Police are authorized to use these talk groups for incident coordination or large event coordination. Talk groups assigned have been assigned to each agency for local or internal operations. Special Fire Police generally are not authorized transmitting privileges on any other county assigned talk group with exception granted to the Traffic Units and Special Fire Police Incident Commanders. Secondary authorizations are granted to Fire and EMS units for coordinating incident needs. Cumberland County municipal police departments are also granted similar secondary authorization for incident coordination.

14.2 TRAFFIC UNITS

Units that function as traffic support units will be assigned the designation of "Traffic". Traffic units will be authorized to use the County assigned talk groups. Traffic units may provide status to Headquarters as needed during a special police deployment or unit dispatch. Traffic units may communicate with command on any incident on the assigned talk group.

14.3 ADHERING TO PROCEDURES

Special Fire Police are required to adhere to all operational requirements of this Communications Procedural Manual. Of particular importance are Sections 1 and 2 of this manual, which details general radio use requirements of all users authorized radio communications privileges under the county's FCC Radio licenses.

14.4 **COMPLAINTS**

Complaints involving improper radio use will be directed to the Special Fire Police captain of the organization involved in the violation. The Special Fire Police captain is expected to take any or all necessary action to insure no future violations will occur. If violations continue, the Cumberland County Fire Police Association will be notified of the failure to comply. Additionally, the county may also notify the fire company or municipality of the failure to comply with operational requirements. In the event that violations continue after this notification, the county can revoke radio privileges for the entire Special Fire Police Organization and/or file a notice of violation with the Federal Communications Commission.

14.5 **SPECIAL FIRE POLICE ROSTERS**

Each individual Special Fire Police Association is required to submit, on an annual basis (no later than January 31), a roster of personnel with assigned "FP" numbers to the Cumberland County 9-1-1 Center. Included with this roster should be the Association's mailing address and the telephone numbers of the Captain and Lieutenant.

14.6 **INCIDENT OPERATIONS**

Dispatch –

Special Fire Police will be dispatched over the fire dispatch talk group and the conventional dispatch radio frequency.

Special Fire Police activation should be considered as "automatic" with the dispatch of fire service units for public safety needs. The OIC of the incident shall allow adequate and reasonable time for Special Fire Police to respond and function at an incident. Only after the arrival of apparatus to the scene and the OIC has determined that insufficient fire police resources have responded may the request for re-dispatch of Special Fire Police be considered. For incidents in which traffic control assistance is required by any of the county's law enforcement agencies and the Fire Services are not part of the incident event, Special Fire Police will be activated by company pager(s). Announcements for Special Fire Police will be done with an activation of the appropriate pager and 2 verbal announcements of the response.

Response –

On any incident where Fire Police are requested and the Fire Department is **NOT involved** with the incident (Fire Police Only event), the 1st due Fire Police only (if multiple are requested) may advise on Fire 1 that their staff is responding to the request by stating “Fire Police XX is responding”. When the first unit arrives on scene, they may advise Headquarters on Fire 1 by stating “Fire Police XX is on scene”. At the conclusion of the event, they will advise “Fire Police XX is available”. All operational traffic will still be handled by the Fire Police on their Operational Talk Groups as they choose. If there is a need for additional resources or other information to or from Headquarters, hailing will be done on Fire 1. If the initial request is for a Traffic Unit or the Traffic Unit handles the request, normal traffic should only come from the Traffic Unit.

Special Fire Police responses should be coordinated on local talk groups or the county wide fire police talk group by the responding agencies officers.

Operations –

The special fire police OIC will assume and coordinate use of one of the fire police ops talk groups. Coordination of the use of these talk groups during multiple incidents will be handled by the various OIC’s operating during the events.

Command –

The Special Fire Police OIC may communicate with the fire department on the assigned fire department ops talk group for incident coordination. It is recommended that the Special Fire Police OIC locate themselves at the Command Post of the incident whenever possible. If the Fire Police are the sole response or remaining response to an incident, they may utilize their local command number. They will continue to operate on their Fire Police talk group and hail Headquarters on Fire 1 if a need arises.

Emergency Button Activations –

This is covered in Section 11.14 of this manual

14.7 UNIT NUMBER IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 14.7 A Special Fire Police Associations are assigned a three-part unit identification designation. The first part is "*FP*" to designate "*Fire Police*." The second part is a number assigned to designate department affiliation. The third part, also a number, is the individual's assigned number for identification.

- 14.7 B Assignment of the individual identification number, with the exception of the Captain and Lieutenant, are left to the individual organization. The Captain will always be "*1*" and the Lieutenant will always be "*2*." Remaining Special Fire Police numbers will be assigned sequential numbers beginning with "*3*."

- 14.7 C Authorized Special Fire Police Organizations are located in Appendix II of this Communications Procedural Manual.