

#### **4. GENERAL RADIO INFORMATION / RADIO DESIGNATIONS**

**4.1** The 800 MHz public safety radio system is managed by the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety and provides radio communications for local Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services and for county government operations. The radio system provides communications capabilities to the public safety community and the Cumberland County 9-1-1 Communications Center.

**4.1 A** A website is provided for information and updates related to this radio system. At this website you will find information related to operations and links to frequently asked questions regarding radio procurement, installation, warranties, and general radio usage:

<http://www.ccpa.net/cumberland/cwp/view.asp?A=1134&Q=472853&cumberlandNav=|28636|>

**4.1 B** All fleet mapping will be coordinated and approved by the Department of Public Safety.

#### **4.2 ASSIGNMENT OF DESIGNATION**

**4.2 A** All requests for radio designations must be coordinated with Cumberland County 9-1-1. A complete radio inventory must be maintained with Cumberland County 9-1-1 for CAD and radio programming purposes.

**4.2 B** Cumberland County 9-1-1 will review all requests. If the request meets the guidelines set forth by this Communications Procedural Manual, Cumberland County 9-1-1 may authorize permission for its usage on the Fire/Rescue and/or EMS system. Should the request not meet the guidelines of this Communications Procedural Manual, the request may be presented to the Communications Committee for a recommendation within a reasonable amount of time following the request for action. Cumberland County 9-1-1 has final decision on all requests.

4.2 C Apparatus designations shall be determined by the unit's primary function. Split and/or multiple designations are not permitted. Radio designations shall only be assigned to apparatus which would be considered functional and available for dispatch by the Communications Center when in service. Apparatus that has been retired without replacement or not meeting this guideline shall not be granted a radio designation.

4.2 D Any designation change requests will be effective on a mutual date determined by the requester and the 9-1-1 Operations Manager.  
The determining factor will be the time needed to make changes within CAD and the manual dispatch systems.

### 4.3 **ASSIGNMENT OF TEMPORARY DESIGNATION**

Cumberland County 9-1-1 may, at any time, make a temporary radio designation that may or may not be defined in this Communications Procedural Manual.

4.4 **RADIO DESIGNATIONS** will be assigned in the following manner

4.4A Single Units will use the established company identification number prefixed by the assigned designation. Example: "Engine 65."

4.4B Multiple Units will use the established company identification number prefixed by the assigned designation and number of units in sequential order. Example: "Engine 1-65, 2-65."

4.4C Chief Officers will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Chief." Example: "Chief 65."

4.4D Fire Company & EMS Company Assistant Chief Officer will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Chief" and number of rank. Example: "Chief 1-65, 2-65, 3-65, etc."

4.4E Municipal Chief & Municipal Assistant Chief Officers will use the established department identification number.  
Subordinate municipal chief officers will use the department identification number suffixed by the letter "A, B OR C" depending upon rank of authority. Example: "Chief 2" or "Chief 2-B."

## 4.5 **MOBILE RADIO UNITS**

**ALL** mobile use shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in this document in its entirety.

### 4.5A **Radio Designation Standards**

**Chief Fire Service Officers:** The designation "Chief" will be utilized to identify a specific individual who has ultimate fire ground authority within an organization or municipality. This designation will be limited to one fire chief and 3 subordinate fire chiefs.

Fire Company Chiefs will utilize the assigned company number of their respective organization.

Municipally appointed Chiefs will be assigned a unique number if requested.

Numbers will only be assigned to those chiefs who are officially appointed by the municipality. Municipal chiefs who are appointed by multiple municipalities will be assigned one number.

Exception:

Specialized Operational teams may be granted additional subordinate chief authorizations by the Cumberland County Joint Fire/Rescue and EMS Communications Committee. Additional subordinate chief requests for specialized teams will be reviewed by the Committee on an individual case-by-case basis for merit and approved if deemed necessary.

Specific radio channel authorizations can be found in Appendix III of this Communications Procedural Manual.

**River Rescue Commanding Officers:** Operations Officers of organized and chartered River Rescue associations will be designated as "*Commander*." The Commander designation will be used to identify a specific individual regardless of the location, vehicle or radio used. This designation is limited to the operations commander and three subordinate commanding officers.

Chief EMS Officer of Independent EMS Services: EMS Chief Officers affiliated with independent BLS Transport and ALS Services will use the assigned chief's designation for all radio transmissions, regardless of location, vehicle or radio used. This designation will be limited to ONE EMS CHIEF AND TWO SUBORDINATE EMS CHIEFS. The exception to this would be for organizations with multiple companies.

EMS Officers of EMS Services Affiliated with Fire Companies: EMS Officers of BLS transport companies or certified QRS response services that are affiliated with fire companies are assigned the "Chief 4-", "Chief 5-" and "Chief 6-" designations. (Example: "Chief 4-45" and "Chief 5-45"). The "Chief 4-" designation shall be the ranking EMS Officer (EMS Chief or EMS Captain) and then the "Chief 5 or 6" designations will be the next ranking EMS Officers (Assistant Chiefs, Duty Chiefs, EMS Captain, EMS Lieutenant, etc.).

Specific radio usage limitations can be found in Section 13.

Subordinate Fire Service Officers: These officers are limited to communications only on incidents to which their organization has been dispatched. Communications shall be limited to "inter-fireground" only. Subordinate Fire Officers shall identify themselves by using their established company number prefixed by "Captain" or "Lieutenant." Radio traffic to Headquarters shall be limited to *PRIORITY* incident traffic. "Responding," "On-the-Scene" and other status related traffic is absolutely prohibited. Subordinate officers are not permitted nor authorized mobile radio installations in their personal vehicles under the county license.

Duty Chief: Assigned to a fire company/ municipal designated fire official/EMS Chief who acts as ranking officer in charge when no other chief officer is available for response coverage. This is not assigned to any single individual or officer position on a permanent basis. The *Duty Chief* will only be authorized radio privileges in the absence or unavailability of a fire company/municipal chief officer. These radio privileges are limited to communications between responding units and/or the Communications Center until Command has been assigned or established.

The *Duty Chief* authorization is further limited to the response area in which the Company would be considered the "*Command Company*." In those municipalities having authorized municipal chief designations, fire company duty chiefs are not authorized. Companies having first due (Command Company) response area outside of these municipalities are permitted a "*Duty Chief*" designation. Under these circumstances, the "*Duty Chief*" designation will only be authorized for response outside of the municipality.

#### **4.5 B** APPARATUS DESIGNATIONS/Requirements

Air- Apparatus specifically equipped with an air compressor or cascaded breathing air supply. Unit shall be capable of replenishing a minimum of fifty (50) breathing air cylinders.

Ambulance - Emergency Medical Service vehicle which provides Basic Life Support care as certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and provides patient transport.

Bariatric – Unit which provides equipment for supporting bariatric incidents.

Boat- Water craft designed to meet emergency service needs. Unit shall be capable of transporting a minimum of four(4) personnel and related equipment.

Brush - Unit shall be all wheel drive and equipped with tools and equipment for wildfire suppression. The unit shall be equipped with a pump and water tank. Unit must have pump and roll capability.

Canteen- Vehicle which provides personnel nourishment. Vehicle shall have sufficient provisions for a minimum of fifty(50) personnel and provide a hand and face decon area.

Captain- Used to designate a junior officer. Communications will be restricted to inter-incident operations.

Car- Assigned to Company/Department/Municipal owned vehicles that are not assigned to a specific Chief Officer and don't meet the definition of any other unit designation. Must meet definition of an emergency vehicle to have visual and audible warning devices.

Cave-In: Assigned to units carrying specialized collapse rescue extrication and shoring equipment. This unit's primary function would be rescue assistance for construction-related trench and building collapses.

Chemical- Apparatus designed to carry specialized equipment and extinguishing agents for control and suppression of special incidents.

Chief- Used to designate Chief Officer(s). Chief 99, Chief 199, etc.

Command- This designation is reserved for field incident use only. Command is assigned to the radio command of the incident.

Communications- Assigned to apparatus whose primary function is to provide command support at large or sustained incidents. A unit of this type shall be self contained, have numerous radios and wireless telephones, computers, and an incident planning area.

Crash- Apparatus designed to handle incidents involving aircraft. Must be capable of discharging large volumes of foam and other extinguishing agents.

Engine - Assigned to apparatus with a fire pump, water, and hose. The fire pump shall be a minimum of 750 gallons per minute at 150 PSI and have a minimum water tank capacity of 500 gallons. Apparatus must carry equipment associated with engine company operations.

EV - (Event Vehicles) - Motorized equipment designated for event support.

Foam Tender - A self-powered unit or towed unit that is specifically designed to support foam operations. The unit shall carry a minimum of 500 gallons of AR or ATC foam concentrate. The unit shall also carry foam support equipment capable of transferring foam concentrate from one vehicle to another. This unit would operate in conjunction with a Foam Wagon.

Foam Wagon – A self-powered unit or towed unit that is specifically designed to support foam operations. The unit shall carry a minimum of 500 gallons of AR or ATC foam concentrate. The unit shall also carry foam support equipment and be capable of transferring foam concentrate from one vehicle to another. The unit will be capable of delivering a minimum of 500 gpm finished foam at a 6% foam solution delivery rate.

FP (Special Fire Police) - Assigned to special fire police. Communications is restricted to the special fire police frequency or acceptable municipal or Fire Company licensed frequencies. Radio designations will be the assigned company number followed by the number designation assigned to the user. FP99-1, FP99-2, etc.

Haz Mat- Vehicle equipped with specialized equipment to support hazardous materials incidents.

Lieutenant- Used to designate a junior officer. Communications will be restricted to inter-incident operations.

Medic - Emergency Medical Services vehicle which provides Advanced Life Support as certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and does not provide patient transport.

MICU (MU)- Emergency Medical Services vehicle which meets the requirements for an ambulance designation and provides both Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support as certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Mini – Pumper - Assigned to apparatus with a fire pump, water, and hose. Pump rating shall be a minimum of 250 gallons per minute and a maximum of 750 gallons per minute at 150 PSI. Water tank shall be a minimum of 200 gallons. Apparatus shall carry equipment related to fire attack functions.

Portable- Any hand carried / portable radio. Portable radios will use company designations. Portable 99, Portable 199, etc.

Public Information Officer- Assigned to individuals appointed by the Department of Public Safety and assigned the responsibility of providing an interface between the Incident Commander and the news media or public. County designations will be PIO 900, PIO 901, etc..

QRS- Assigned to Quick Response Service units that provide medical assistance and meet the minimum standards of the voluntary recognition program for QRS as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The unit shall be a non-transport vehicle and provide a minimum of first responder care.

Rescue- Unit assigned the primary responsibility of heavy rescue operations, but not limited to vehicle rescue. Unit shall provide extensive extrication equipment and an assortment of medium and heavy rescue tools. Unit shall be equipped with tools capable of spreading, pulling, pushing, cutting and lifting. Unit shall be capable of multiple rescue functions. Seating shall be provided for a minimum of five (5) personnel excluding the driver.

Rehab - This unit shall be capable of providing rehabilitation for a minimum of 12 personnel in a semi-controlled to controlled environment. Vehicle shall be equipped with a prone EMS evaluation station, seating, fluids, towels, blankets, first-aid kit, hand and face decontamination area and necessary lighting. This unit will provide basic nourishment as required.

Safety- Assigned to individuals with scene responsibility for personnel safety and accountability. Radio designations will be assigned company or municipal numbers. Safety 9, Safety 99, etc.. Communications will be restricted to inter-incident operations.

Salvage – Apparatus whose primary function is salvage operations. Unit must carry essential equipment necessary for basic recovery operations at a fire or related fire department response.

Squad - Assigned to apparatus with a fire pump, water and hose. The fire pump shall be a minimum of 750 gallons per minute at 150 PSI and have a minimum water tank capacity of 500 gallons. The unit shall be equipped with tools, lighting and self-contained power to be used in supporting fire ground functions and rescue.

Tanker - The primary purpose of this vehicle is to transport water to fire ground operations. This vehicle shall carry a minimum of 1500 gallons of water, a fire pump rated at 150 PSI, and a portable water holding tank equal to or greater than the capacity of the vehicle water tank. Unit must be equipped with a high volume valve designed for discharging water into a folding tank.

Traffic – Assigned to vehicles whose primary function is to provide traffic and scene control personnel and or equipment.

Transport- This shall be a non-emergency vehicle whose primary function shall be to transport physically challenged individuals who do not require the services of an ambulance.

Truck- Apparatus equipped with an aerial ladder, elevating platform, or articulating arm with a minimum extension elevation of 75 feet. Apparatus must carry equipment for vertical/horizontal ventilation, salvage and overhaul, and forcible entry. Apparatus shall be equipped with 115 feet of ground ladders and sufficient power to operate tools and supply scene lighting.

Utility- Vehicles designed for general service (emergency or non-emergency). These vehicles do not qualify for any other listed designation. Must meet definition of an emergency vehicle to have visual and audible warning devices.

UTV- (Utility Terrain Vehicle) – Motorized all-terrain type vehicle specifically designed for limited access Fire/Rescue/EMS response

Typing list below would only be used for the County resource manual for reference when a specific vehicle type would be requested.

Type 1 – Single seat vehicle

Type 2 – Double seat vehicle w/ cargo area for incident support (example-gator, mule, ranger)

Type 3 – Snowmobile

- 4.6** Cumberland County Department and Unit Identification Number Assignments are authorized by Cumberland County with guidance from the Cumberland County Joint Fire/Rescue and EMS Communications Committee. This includes any agency or organization, which provides justification for authorization. Departments and agencies must provide emergency service within Cumberland County. Fire Service agencies must have first due box area. EMS agencies must be part of a municipal response plan (Box System) within Cumberland County and be stationed in Cumberland County. Department and other authorized organizations or agencies are located in Appendix I of this Communications Procedural Manual.