

**9                    Announcements / Equipment Status / General Operating Information**

**9.1                 STREET INFORMATION**

Street closings, when received by the Communications Center, will be relayed to the responsible fire chief. Chief Officers are encouraged to develop a rapport with their local municipal officials who are responsible for street and roadwork so that scheduled street work notices are sent to the Fire/EMS stations. The Communications Center will not be the posting point for street closings. Once the information is relayed, it will be cleared and not available to the dispatcher.

**9.2                 WEATHER INFORMATION**

Any severe weather potential (advisory, watch or warning) which may impact the public safety services of the county will be broadcast by the Communications Center on Fire 1 Conventional, Fire 1 800, Med Dispatch 800, and on MED 10. Appropriate Emergency Management encoder tones will be activated as part of these announcements.

**9.3                 STATION IDENTIFICATION - 0900 & 1800 HOURS**

At 0900 hours and 1800 hours daily, station identification will be broadcast. This identification announcement includes FCC License identification and operational description. In addition to this information, the following will also be announced on Conventional Fire 1 and on 800 Fire 1. This will include out-of-service county fire apparatus, wildfire danger rating (when applicable) and any current weather watches or warnings.

**9.4                 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements not relating to the primary purpose of the general operations of the Fire/Rescue and EMS Communications System shall not be broadcast by the Communications Center. This includes, but is not limited to, training announcements, work details, meetings, public service announcements, etc.

## 9.5 APPARATUS STATUS

9.5A Apparatus status shall be maintained at the Communications Center at all times.

9.5B Companies placing apparatus out-of-service (maintenance, etc.) will relay such information to the Communications Center by telephone. Apparatus being placed out of service or unavailable during an incident due to manning, availability, or mechanical problems may be done by radio.

The following procedures are acceptable:

1. Send next due unit (assumed if nothing requested)
2. No transfers
3. Specific unit on **all** calls

9.5C Apparatus Stand Bys / Apparatus Loaning.

Apparatus standing by for companies who are out of service will assume the radio designation for the unit that they are standing by for. Only exception to this will be if the standby unit is remaining available for first due responses in their first due box area.

Example- Truck 12 is standing by for Truck 53 due to a banquet. Truck 12 will be placed out of service in CAD and will assume Truck 53's designation.

Apparatus loaned to another company for use will assume the designation of the unit they are filling for.

Example- Engine 141 is loaned to Co. 36. E141 will assume the designation of Engine 136 or Engine 236.

These procedures DO NOT relate to apparatus transfers during an incident. Apparatus will maintain their normal designations during transfers.

9.5C Headquarters/Cumberland MED will announce apparatus in- and out-of-service at time of notification of such. Pager activations will only be done at the request of the caller and subject to the discretion of the Shift Supervisor.

9.5D **ALL** apparatus reported as out-of-service will be announced as part of the 0900 and 1800-hour status reports.

**9.6 DRILLS/EXERCISES/COMMUNITY-STATION EVENTS**

9.6A Routine training drills and exercises will not be announced nor dispatched by the Communications Center. Required exercises requiring communications evaluation will require a written request to the 9-1-1 Operations Manager for potential approval.

9.6B Requests for a dedicated communications talk groups for drills, exercises, or community/company events for purposes of communications between field units may be granted if approved by DPS. It is suggested that you use your agency talk group whenever possible for these purposes. DPS will not adjust radio profiles to accommodate these events. Event talk groups or an operational talk group will be utilized as assigned. The use of the Fire Regional or Public Safety talk groups is not allowed. A request for an assigned talk group shall be forwarded to one of the following a minimum of 48 hours prior to the event:

Brian Hamilton	717-218-2908	<a href="mailto:bhamilton@ccpa.net">bhamilton@ccpa.net</a>
John Quirk	717-218-2916	<a href="mailto:iquirk@ccpa.net">iquirk@ccpa.net</a>
Bob Shively	717-218-2902	<a href="mailto:rshively@ccpa.net">rshively@ccpa.net</a>

9.6C Under no circumstances shall any of the radio frequencies licensed by the county for Fire and EMS Communications Systems or any dispatch or operational talk groups be used for communications related to fund raising events.

**9.7 ADMINISTRATIVE CALLS TO CHIEF OFFICERS**

Administrative calls to chief officers for information, potential incident notification or other needs directly related to their realm of official authority will be done in the following manner:

- A. Telephone call
- B. Radio Broadcast

- C. Encoder activation with radio broadcast to call the Communications Center.

**Note:** Steps A and B may be omitted at the discretion of the Communications Supervisor if the situation warrants.

## **9.8 STANDBY-IN-QUARTERS**

Requests to dispatch a company for a "Standby-in-Quarters" for the purpose of providing coverage for the displaced company's responses areas will not be honored. In the event a need arises to provide standby coverage during an incident, transfer assignments must be requested.

Stand by in quarters will be announced for companies or teams being placed on standby for a potential response to currently active incidents.

## **9.9 Alarm Systems**

Alarm system monitoring and status is the responsibility of property management or their associated alarm company. The communications center will not maintain any out of service status except for County properties that are monitored within the communications center. Any alarm activations received by the communications center will be dispatched appropriately. Any alarm declared out of service shall be noted at the monitoring agency or facility.

Any requests for fire drill activations where the alarm will be transmitted to the communications center will be honored and noted in CAD. The drill will be assumed cleared within 30 minutes of the original call if the facility fails to notify the communications center of the completion.