



Manhattan Fire Protection District

SOP #: 750-1	Effective Date: 02/18/09	Revised Date: 07/08/16
Section: Fire Operations		
Subject: Radio Communications		

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all members of the Manhattan Fire Department have a working knowledge of communication practices using mobile and portable radio equipment.

SCOPE:

This procedure will apply to all personnel who use mobile and portable radio equipment.

DEFINITIONS:

None

GUIDELINE:

Manhattan Fire Protection District has joined area Districts to be dispatched from Lincoln Way Public Safety Communication Center. All radio dispatching, alerting of an emergency, will be done on the mail channel. All two way communication between the dispatch center and the responding emergency units will be done by using a repeater radio system. The transmit frequency is 154.8825 and the receiving frequency is 151.1825 PL 411.

When a District vehicle is responding to an emergency, or whenever communications need to be completed with the dispatch center, the term "Lincoln Way" shall be used to contact the dispatch center. Example: *"Lincoln Way from Engine 81, we are enroute to 123 main street"*

Use of Fire/EMS Common Language

All Fire Department Personnel will use clear and concise common language when communicating via radio. Simplicity in a direct-to-the-point manner is the best manner of communicating. Good diction and message deliveries at an even pace are the keystone to effective radio communications.

Fire/EMS Common Language

Examples of Acceptable Common Language Expressions:

- Responding
- In Service, returning
- En Route to _____
- Arrived at _____ Hospital
- Affirmative; Yes
- Repeat your message
- Negative or "no"



Manhattan Fire Protection District

- On the scene
- Available on the scene
- Return all responding units/apparatus
- Out of service
- Message received/Okay
- Back in service
- Returning to quarters
- In district
- Available

Unacceptable Terms are listed below:

Unacceptable for Enroute:

- Going
- Out
- Taken in the job
- Taken a ride
- Going to the crash

Unacceptable for arriving:

- On the job

Unacceptable for calling dispatch

- Office
- Center

Radio Designations

As past practice has dictated in Manhattan Fire Protection District, in a responding unit with a minimum of two responders, the person who sits in the right front position is designated the officer of that unit. This designated person should perform all radio transmissions for that unit while responding. Once the unit arrives at an emergency scene and the crew dismounts the unit the radio designation of the “officer” shall be, the unit number followed by officer. Example: “Engine 81 officer from command”. The driver of the unit shall have the designation of the unit number followed by “driver”. Example: “Engine 81 driver from command”. If a third person is a part of the responding crew the designation for this person shall be the unit number followed by “pipe”. Example: “Engine 81 pipe to Engine 81 officer”.

Using Fire Ground Red Channel

When there is more than a single company responding to an incident the usage of a fire-ground channel “Red” (or an alternate fire-ground channel as requested by the Lincoln Way Dispatch Center) can be utilized. After the first arriving unit gives a size-up and complete his/her follow-up report of the incident the designated officer shall direct dispatch to have all further arriving



Manhattan Fire Protection District

units to switch to “Fire-ground Red”. All on scene communications with on scene units shall be done on this fire-ground.

Emergency incidents, such as routine ambulance calls, will not need to switch to Fire-ground Red. An emergency incident that requires a single company to enter into a large commercial or large educational structure should switch to Fire-ground Red. The driver of the first arriving unit needs to monitor Fire-ground Red as well as the Lincoln Way channel.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

None

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Some incidents will require multiple radio channels to be monitored. This is best done with a Chief Officer in a command car, with multiple radios. Officers should evaluate the risk involved of switching to a fire-ground channel if his/her company is the only company on scene.

Approved By:

Signature: *Daniel Forsythe*

Date: *07/08/16*