

INFORMATIONAL / SAFETY MESSAGES FOR FIRE RADIO

The fire radio will not accept requests to check the availability of aeromedical units. Requests for helicopters shall be limited to: placed on stand-by or direct fly to scene.

The MDC command to check Hospital status is: US HOSP Any hospital on check status or having limitations will be noted there. This information is sent to EMS units on dispatch and prints automatically

When any IC requests 2 or more brush units on a woods or field type fire, an automatic incident notification to the State Forestry Department will occur.

Upon determining a structure fire is working - the Fire dispatcher shall inquire with the IC his pleasure on a Rapid Intervention Team. If so requested, the RIT should come from the closest available - not already involved station.

A Fire Police task force assignment shall consist of Fire Police from the next five (5) stations and 2 Traffic units. Generic - units changed by that station.

On a mass casualty incident the OIC may request a Medical Box which consists of: 5 ambulances or MICU's and 1 medic unit. A Disaster Box gets: 5 ambulances or MICU's, 1 Rescue, 1 Medic, 1 Fire Police, Comm-1, and a mass casualty trailer. Generic - unless the company has a different specific response.

When making a status change - Remember - Use the SMU or MDC First - then voice out the change if necessary.

The busier the day or the bigger the fire - The more important it is that you use your MDT and/or SMU. Help save valuable air-time for dispatches & command instructions.

Fire Police operations should be limited to the simplex Fire Police frequency or your zone fire-grounds 2 frequency (i.e. EFG-2, CFG-2, WFG-2). The fire radio does not monitor those frequencies and any status change will still need to be done on the main Fire channel.

To place a premises on "Chief Notification" after a fire alarm response - the county Fire Chiefs policy requires 2 responses to the premises in a 24 hour time period. Chief are asked to try and refrain from putting fire alarms on Chief's Notification after only 1 response.

Attention all EMS personnel - when sending a "to" message to a fireboard terminal but not sure which one to send to...use the command: XTODISP This will allow your message to go to the console handling your incident automatically.

Attention all EMS personnel - Prior to arriving on scene - EMS personnel are urged to recall the incident by using the "R" transmit command and checking for supplements which may assist with patient info and past Medical histories.

When establishing command at an incident... The term Command is assigned to the incident commander and the term "CP" is assigned to the person or unit running the command post for the Incident Commander.

Chester County Incident Command labels the sides of buildings as: A,B,C,D and floors as: 1,2,3,4. Remember to move operations to FD-1 as soon as possible.

When planning a drill that requires dispatch by the Fire Radio - please remember to file the appropriate paperwork at least 24 hours in advance.

Chiefs are reminded to keep officer listings in CAD up to date. Changes in rank or contact information should be sent or faxed to the county as soon as possible. Information should contain name, rank, home, and work as well as cell and/or pager numbers.

When requesting PECO for a wires related incident remember that PECO requires a priority level in addition to a corresponding street address and pole number. Information such as pole to pole or pole to residence type incident is helpful as well.

Reminder that National Incident Management System certifications will be required to apply for Federal Fire Act Monies. Participation in the county fire reporting program to the state is required to apply for State Grants as well.

Attention all EMS personnel; failure to respond requires the fire dispatcher put the unit on "Zero Response" time for two (2) hours. Under Zero time you may still get dispatched to additional calls in your own district along with the next due EMS unit.

Voluntary Zero time may be requested by a fire or EMS officer any time he/she feels manning is insufficient to support getting that unit out. Units may be removed from Zero Response when manning levels return to normal and after notifying the Fire Radio.

Chiefs are reminded that special premises info can be added to CAD for any given address or business. Premises info can be anything from hazardous chemicals, Knox box location, dangerous pets or conditions, or access information. This info should be sent/faxed to the CAD Division.

Chief Officers are reminded that the Fire Radio shall only need acknowledge the highest-ranking officer. Others may or may not be answered depending on the situation.

Units are reminded to keep your status current.... When placing a unit SAA or SANA, etc. **REMEMBER** to status AIQ when you are clear. Units that run the PA Turnpike are reminded not to go available until they are clear of the turnpike and in position to again handle calls.

During "Priority Radio Dispatch" the following type codes get downgraded to single company responses: Wire, Fire Alarms, Lightning Strikes with no visible fire. Units who are given calls on the air and responding for nuisance calls will not be tone alerted. Only the 1st unit need voice a response - supplemental units shall status via SMU or MDT only.

The term "Cover For" is used to denote that a unit is covering for a unit that is not available or out of service. The term "In Place Of" is used to denote a unit is covering a call for a unit that failed to respond in their allotted time.

The term "Reduced Speed" in Chester County refers to the initial downgrading of an incident where the OIC advises the units can slow down. The term "Proceed with Caution" shall be used to denote there is some specific hazard (i.e. ice, debris or wires in the roadway).

Attention All Chiefs; at the 15-minute mark of an incident - The dispatcher shall inquire with the OIC his/her pleasure on the need for relocates, ALS stand-by, and need for Fire Marshals.

The status command "AOR" (Available for Radio) indicates your unit is available and can be found on the radio. The status "AIQ" indicates your unit is available but now in quarters. Please keep your status current and remember to status "AIQ" before backing into the station.

Attention EMS personnel - When transporting to a hospital other than the pre-programmed buttons - providers may type in: "TR" followed by the hospital name in lower case brackets. You can also type in a comma behind the brackets and add your mileage or miscellaneous comments.

Attention all providers.... When placing a helicopter on "stand-by", know in advance which stations do and don't send out fire apparatus for this type of call. Remember - Not all Fire stations get dispatched when a helicopter gets placed on stand-by.... some wait until there is an actual fly command given. Be prepared - Plan ahead.

Attention all personnel - Helicopter landings shall be performed on an assigned Inter-Ops channel. Know in advance what your "normal" assigned Inter-Ops channel is and how to find it in your mobile and portable radios. Remember to still keep one radio on your normal assigned fire frequency for communication with the fire radio.

The closest available helicopter listed in CAD will be dispatched. Helicopter call-up orders can be found in your departments CAD Search streams.

Attention all personnel - Accidental activations of Emergency ID's occur from time to time. When this happens to you - Stay on the Emergency band until hailed by the dispatcher and advise them of the situation or reason for the activation. Once you are Ok'd then return to your assigned frequency. Please don't make dispatchers hunt for you on various frequencies.

The larger the incident - the more important your SMU or MDC becomes to everyone. Do as much as you can via these devices and leave the airtime open for command instructions, additional dispatches and communications to the Incident Commander. Be part of the solution - Not part of the problem!

Attention all Chiefs - Comm-1 can be a valuable resource when brought in on the right type of incidents. Consider using it for large scale or multi-jurisdictional incidents such as searches, multi-alarm fire, Haz-Mats, water recoveries and specific special events.

Swift water rescues and even what appears to be a simple stranded motorist in water can pose danger to responders. Know your departments' limitations and don't be afraid to add a boat or water rescue company on your FRL's for water rescues. Be prepared - Plan ahead.

Attention all EMS personnel - Notify the dispatcher prior to rebooting your MDT. When rebooting - the MDT will retransmit the last successful command. If the last command was AIQ - you may accidentally take yourself off the call. The dispatcher can then immediately assign you back on the call.

The County Fire Chiefs have approved relocating two (2) engines on escalating incidents in an attempt to keep appropriate coverage and manning levels. The first engine may come from the normal relocate station and an additional engine from an outlying area due to depletion of local resources around the area of the fire. The preferred manning level for relocates is four.