

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS POLICY #20-001

TOPIC: Radio Traffic Prioritization			
Revision Date 4/8/2017	Replaces Version 2/20/17	Approved By XCC OPS	Pages 3
DISPOSITION: Operational Area Policy Manual			

INTRODUCTION:

The standardization of radio terminology is critical to effective communication and firefighter safety. This policy addresses the prioritization of radio traffic and the terminology used to clear the radio for emergency and new incident traffic.

BACKGROUND:

Due to the regional and National influences as well as various recognized organizations, radio traffic terminology has mixed meanings to many people. With the increased emphasis on accountability and firefighter safety as well as improved communication skills, there is a need for more precise definitions to key words used for used to alert personnel to potential dangers and new emergencies as well as a priority for transmitting messages.

DEFINITIONS:

Mayday: Radio terminology used as a personal declaration of an imminent or immediate life-threatening situation by an individual.

Emergency Traffic: Radio terminology declared to announce a new incident or imminent / immediate life-threatening situation involving emergency personnel.

Priority Traffic: Radio terminology declared to announce a first report of a new incident. "Priority Traffic" identifies new incidents that do not involve emergency personnel.

POLICY:

Radio traffic shall be prioritized in the following order:

- A. Imminent life threat emergency or life safety hazard to emergency personnel
- B. Imminent life threat emergency or life safety hazard to the public
- C. First report of a new incident
- D. Dispatch of a new incident
- E. On-going incident communications
- F. Routine traffic

Procedure:

When there is an incident involving personnel on scene of an emergency such as a “Firefighter Down”, “Firefighter Missing”, “Firefighter Trapped” or “Firefighter shelter deployment”, the term “**Mayday**” shall be transmitted on the radio.

When there is a need to declare an emergency evacuation or vehicle accident involving emergency personnel, the term “**Emergency Traffic**” shall be transmitted on the radio.

When personnel experience a new incident such as a witnessed car accident, person down in the road, or first report of a vegetation / structure fire the term “**Priority Traffic**” shall be transmitted on the radio.