

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 9
Westlake Fire Department
Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Radio Usage Protocol

Effective Date: May 1, 2004

Authorized By: Chief Paul Barker

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to guide radio communications on all emergency incidents.

II. POLICY

- A. All personnel shall use these procedures on emergency incidents.
- B. Every effort shall be made to limit radio traffic on Firenet / Firecom South to a minimum in consideration of other agencies using the same channel.
- C. Dispatch will assign a primary fireground channel for fireground communication upon initial dispatching of units depending on the size of the incident.
- D. All units shall report their response and arrival on the scene over the radio on the Firenet / Firecom South channel or on MDC buttons.
- E. The IC will give a sizeup on Firenet / Firecom South and include additional resources needed, cancel additional response or other pertinent information as determined by the call.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. If Dispatch does not assign a primary fireground channel during the initial dispatching, the IC will use the WFD primary (TAC 9), simplex or VHF Fireground channel or request assignment to a monitored or unmonitored fireground channel, as needed.
- B. Apparatus not assigned to an incident shall notify Dispatch of their response on Firenet / Firecom South or by MDC.
- C. It will NOT be necessary to respond or repeat updates by Dispatch on A/TC EMS or TAC 9 channels.
- D. The first arriving unit or apparatus will notify dispatch they are assuming command and the unit number of the IC. The IC will be referred to as the IC and not as their unit number (example: Bee Cave IC)
- E. The IC will normally be the only person communicating on Firenet / Firecom South after arrival on scene.
- F. Personnel assigned to apparatus who are not IC's will be referred to as E9xx Officer, Engineers as E9xx Engineer, E9xx FF, etc on the radio. Fireground radio

communications shall utilize “plain English” communications only. **“10 Codes” will NOT be used for WFD communications.**

- G. Personnel working on scene will be referred to as Team 1, 2, 3, etc, not as unit numbers.
- H. The term “Operations” will not be used on normal incidents because this is confusing on the fireground. Operations Officers are only assigned during large-scale, long duration incidents.
- I. Radios used on the fireground shall normally be placed in the non-scan mode so the highest degree of probability exists for personnel to monitor fireground communications and to minimize the possibility of emergency radio traffic being unheard.
- J. The Safety Officer may be assigned to listen to an unmonitored fireground channel for emergency radio traffic.