

(July 2012)

[\(See Procedure 8100p501 – Prioritization of Emergency Radio Traffic\)](#)

The standardization of radio terminology statewide 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.

Radio Traffic Communication Priorities

Radio use shall be prioritized in the following order:

1. Imminent life threat emergency or life safety hazard to incident emergency personnel
2. Imminent life threat emergency or life safety hazard to the public
3. First report of a new incident
4. Dispatch of a new incident
5. On-going incident communications
6. Routine traffic

Radio Traffic Terminology

The following terminologies are utilized for prioritizing radio traffic:

Emergency Traffic

“Emergency Traffic” is declared to announce an imminent or immediate life threatening situation to incident emergency personnel, Incident Commander (IC) and/or CC.

Mayday

Mayday is the radio terminology used as a personal declaration of an imminent or immediate life-threatening situation by an individual or aircraft. This declaration is a general broadcast request for immediate assistance.

Emergency Traffic Only

After “Emergency Traffic” is transmitted, the incident communications (i.e. ECC, OCC, MCC) shall declare “Emergency Traffic Only” on the affected frequency(s). All unrelated radio traffic will cease until the frequency is cleared for routine traffic.

New Incident

“New Incident” is the radio terminology to be used by a facility or resource for the initial report of an incident to the ECC.

Incident Traffic Only

“Incident Traffic Only” is the radio terminology used by the ECC to clear routine radio traffic due to heavy usage. All routine radio traffic is restricted until the frequency is cleared by the ECC.

Routine Traffic

“Routine Traffic” is general radio usage not related to a new or ongoing incident. This traffic includes, but is not limited to:

- Administrative traffic
- Resource status (availability, in service, out of service)
- Delayed responses (out of service, training)
- Incident logistical needs
- Direct (car-to-car) traffic
- Requests for ETA’s
- Other non-essential traffic

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