



CHARLOTTESVILLE - ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

TOPIC: Radio Operations	S.O.P. # 3.7
Approved by: Lair D. Haugh, Chief	Revised: 2/9/2003 Approved:

I. PURPOSE

- a. To standardize use of portable radio equipment issued to members.
- b. To minimize unnecessary and disruptive radio traffic.
- c. To encourage use of the telephone as a first line communications device.

II. OPERATIONS

- a. Portable radios issued to those other than line officers are issued at the Director's discretion. The use of the radio is a privilege not a right, and such privilege may and will be revoked if the user fails to abide by this procedure concerning use.
- b. The portable radio is issued for use in emergencies only, specifically, when the general membership tone has been activated for a pending call and it would be beneficial to alert dispatch that you are available to run the call, or in the case where you are closer to the scene than the squad house, to advise you will be able to meet the unit at the scene.
- c. In the event you happen to be in the immediate vicinity and feel it appropriate to first respond to provide life saving care, NO notification of that should be made.
 1. Should you arrive that the situation is different than dispatched (either in terms of number or priority of the patient), notification to ECC should be made.
- d. Use of the radio in non-emergency situations is discouraged to prevent annoying and disruptive radio traffic. The radio is not issued to provide personal communications for the member, nor to substitute for a personal pager. Professionalism while operating is required.
- e. Traffic not related to an emergency incident should be conducted either via telephone or over a TAC channel. examples of non-emergency traffic which should not be conducted on the dispatch channel include:
 - i. Disabled vehicle information.
 - ii. Requests for pages.
 - iii. Responses to an individual page.
 - iv. Anything else that you cannot justify as an emergency call.
- f. Upon arrival at an emergency scene where the incident commander has assigned sectors, the portable shall immediately be offered to the incident commander and/or operations officer for use by a sector officer. The portable will be used in a manner consistent with the Integrated Incident Command System.

III. VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

- a. This policy will be enforced to ensure that those persons with a pattern of violation shall lose the privilege to have an issued radio.
- b. Failure to return squad issued equipment upon the Chief's request shall be ground for disciplinary action.