

2. TERMINOLOGY

2.1 GENERAL

It is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.

The use of plain language in emergency response is a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about—achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.

The use of common terminology is about the ability of area commanders, State and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and emergency responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

York County DES does not recognize the use of 10-codes or other coded language.

2.2 STANDARD VERBIAGE

Acknowledged Lets me know that you have received and understand the message.

Advise Give this message to, or provide me with the necessary information.

Available Message to be given for apparatus ready to respond to a call. **Station 6 equipment is available** would be transmitted at the end of a call, if they

are ready to go on another call and are finished with the present one.

BOLO	Be On the Look Out
Cancel the call	Used to terminate a call prior to units arriving on scene
Location	Either a question or a statement concerning the whereabouts of a unit. Engine 36-1, your location? Or York, the correct location is...
On the Scene	Correct manner in which to notify York that a unit is at the location of the alarm. Rescue 24 is on the scene.
Out Of Service	This refers to the mechanical status of the equipment. To be done on the telephone unless equipment breaks down en route to a call.
Priority	A message of paramount importance involving an emergency where life or personal injury is at stake or critical situations requiring immediate assistance
Repeat	To say again. Repeat your last message.
Responding	The correct manner in which to notify York that a unit is now en route to the scene of an alarm or incident. The first unit responding should also give the location. Engine 19-3 is responding and give location.
Return	When it is desired that some or all of the units responding are to cancel on the call. It is assumed that equipment is available if not advised. York from Chief 41, return all equipment, no fire involved.

Stand by	Listen, but do not transmit until further notice.
Unavailable	Any unit leaving the scene of an incident which is not yet able to respond on another call. Tanker 28 is returning, unavailable.
Under Control	This term would be used when bringing control to any incident including but not limited to fires, extrication, etc.

2.3 APPARATUS DEFINITIONS AND RADIO DESIGNATIONS

Air cascade	Vehicle equipped with at least five (5) 300 cu ft air bottles; the bottles should carry at least 2400 psi. The basic function of the vehicle is to fill self-contained breathing apparatus.
Attack	The unit can be either a mini-type pumper (250 gpm) or a class "A" pumper (1000 gpm) designed with preconnected hose lines and other related equipment for a fast hitting, quick attack unit. Sometimes operates as a Brush unit (see Brush below).
Ambulance	BLS provides EMS procedures to sustain viability of the brain and heart in the absence of pulse or breathing. It also encompasses splinting, dressing and other initial care covered in basic first aid training.
Boat	A unit designed to operate on the water for rescue or fire purposes.
Brush	An off road type vehicle designed for fighting grass, brush, or woodland fires, equipped with either a booster or power take-off pump. The vehicle should have at least a 100-gallon water tank; carry rakes, shovels, and back pack units.

Car	A vehicle that is used to conduct department business, such as code enforcement, transportation for a daytime duty officer, training sessions, etc.
Chemical	Should have at least 500 pounds of dry chemical. Should carry at least 60 gallons of foam or a combination of both.
Crash	A unit designed for protection of aircraft, on or off the runway. Usually uses foam.
Engine	The pump shall be at least 500 gpm. The booster tank should carry at least 300 gallons of water and the hose bed designed to carry 1500 ft of hose.
Hazmat	Vehicle equipped with specialized equipment to support hazardous materials incidents.
MCU	Mobile Communications Unit. Mobile resource available to any county agency upon request. Provides interoperable radio communications and command capabilities.
Medic	Advanced life support (ALS) unit provides intervention that utilizes cardiac monitoring, advanced airways and pharmacology for treatment of life-threatening emergencies.
MICU	A MICU is a Mobile Intensive Care Unit. It is an ambulance with paramedics aboard that can transport patients.
QRS	Quick Response Unit. Defined by regulation as “an entity recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health to respond to an emergency and to provide EMS to patients pending the arrival of the prehospital personnel of an ambulance service”.

QRT	Quick Response Team. The QRT is a county wide team of officers from various police agencies around York County that provide specialized services to police departments when they encounter dangerous situations such as barricaded persons, hostage rescue situations, high risk warrants and many others.
Rescue	Shall carry a rescue tool such as spreaders, rams, cutters, or combination tools. Usually also carries small multipurpose tools including, but not limited to, saws, drills, chisels, pry bars, shoring systems, and similar tools. May also carry airbags.
Salvage	Carries tarps and other covers, and tools for overhaul at a fire scene.
Scuba	A diving team that does not have a rescue boat.
Service	A unit that carries any other type of equipment, i.e. pumps, generators, turn-outs, masks, air bottles, foam, rope, etc. A unit that cannot meet any other basic guideline.
Tanker	The purpose is to transport additional water to fires in areas not covered by hydrants. A 1500-gallon tank capacity is recommended, with a 2-1/2 inch gated connection for filling. Tankers not equipped with a pump providing a 500-gpm discharge should have a four (4) inch dump valve. On tankers of the 2000-gallon capacity, two (2) such dump valves should be supplied.
Truck	A vehicle designed to carry a full complement of ground ladders and equipped with an aerial ladder that is at

least 50 feet in length. May be a ladder, platform or water pipe.

Utility

A vehicle that is used for department operations. Examples are, but not limited to, personnel carriers, command post unit, specialized equipment such as lighting or confined space units, fire police equipment, etc. A unit that cannot meet any other basic guideline.

2.4 PERSONNEL RADIO DESIGNATIONS

The Public Safety Policy Board will approve all radio designations and ensure they meet the requirements listed above. Units requesting a radio designation will submit an Application for Radio Designation Number.

Fire

Chief Officers will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Chief." Example: "Chief 65."

Deputy Chief Officers will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Deputy". Example: "Deputy 65."

Battalion Chief will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Battalion". Example: "Battalion 89".

Assistant Chief Officers will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Chief" and number of rank. Example: "Chief 65-1, 65-2, 65-3, etc."

Volunteer departments may have 2 Assistant Chiefs with radio titles. Career departments are authorized an Assistant Chief per shift.

Captain will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Captain". Example: "Captain 89, Captain 89-A."

Career departments are authorized a Captain per shift (A, B, C, etc).

Lieutenant will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Lieutenant" and number of rank. Example: "Lt 65-1, 65-2."

Volunteer departments may have 2 Lieutenants with radio titles. Career departments are authorized a Lieutenant per shift.

Duty Officer will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Duty Officer." Example: "Duty Officer 65."

It is assigned to a fire company officer who acts as ranking officer in charge when no other chief officer is available for response coverage. This is not assigned to any single individual or officer position on a permanent basis. The *Duty Officer* will only be authorized radio privileges in the absence or unavailability of a fire company officer. These radio privileges are limited to communications between responding units and/or the Communications Center until Command has been assigned or established.

Warden (An official assigned to prevent or fight fires, as in a forest, logging operation, camp, or town) will use the established company identification number prefixed by "Warden." Example: "Warden 72."

EMS

BLS will use the established company identification number prefixed by "EMS" Example: "EMS 36." This is the chief Officer of the EMS agency. Subordinate officers will use a letter after the established company identification number. Example: "EMS 36-A, EMS 36-B, EMS 36-C, EMS 36-D". Each agency is authorized 4 subordinate officer radio designations.

ALS will use the established company identification number prefixed by "ALS" Example: "ALS 97." This is the chief Officer of the EMS agency. Subordinate officers will use a letter after the established company identification number. Example: "ALS 97-A, ALS 97-B, ALS 97-C, ALS 97-D". Each agency is authorized 4 subordinate officer radio designations.

QRS will use the established company identification number prefixed by "QRS" Example: "QRS 54." Subordinate officers will use a letter after the established company identification number. Example: "QRS 54-A, QRS 54-B."

Police

Police units will use their established department identification number followed by their badge number. Example: "38-17."