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| **Emergency Traffic** | Related Policies: Operations at Structure Fires, Accountability Procedures; SCBA; Rapid Intervention Teams; ICS |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.* |
| Applicable KY Statutes: |
| OSHA: |
| NFPA Standard: 1500 Ch. 8, NFPA 1561 |
| Date Implemented: | Review Date: |

1. **Purpose:** To establish a standard operating procedure for clearing a radio frequency of all unnecessary and non-emergency radio traffic, pursuant to NFPA 1500 Ch. 8.2.
2. **Policy:** It is the policy of the fire department to comply with NFPA 1500 and NFPA 1561 to help ensure the safety of personnel operating at emergency incidents.
3. **Definitions**

**Emergency traffic**: A radio designation indicating that an emergency has been declared and that there is a need to clear non-urgent radio traffic from the radio channel. Upon the declaration of emergency traffic all non-urgent radio traffic shall cease.

1. **Procedure**
2. The Incident Commander, any Branch/Division/Group officer, any chief or company officer, any safety officer, or any member operating at the scene of an emergency may call for emergency traffic at any time when it is necessary to clear the radio channel of unnecessary and non-emergency radio traffic due to an on-scene emergency condition.
3. Immediately upon hearing a request for emergency traffic, all radio traffic on that channel shall cease. Dispatch shall sound the emergency traffic tone for 5 seconds and make an announcement for all units to stand by for emergency traffic.
4. The member who declared “emergency traffic,” shall then use clear text to identify the type of emergency, change in conditions, or tactical operations that prompted the request.
5. Only emergency radio traffic of an urgent nature shall be permitted on the radio channel following a request for emergency traffic, until an all clear has been given.
6. All members shall be alert to avoid calling additional requests for emergency traffic for situations that have already been reported.
7. When a member other than the Incident Commander has declared “emergency traffic”, the member shall inform the Incident Commander when he/she has completed his need for emergency traffic by stating “all clear, resume regular radio traffic”. Thereafter it shall be up to the Incident Commander to end the emergency traffic situation.
8. The Incident Commander shall inform Dispatch when the emergency is under control, and routine radio traffic may resume.
9. Where the Incident Commander has designated an Operations Section Chief to be responsible for all tactical operations, the references in this policy to the Incident Commander shall be applicable to the Operations Section Chief.