



**ARCADIA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**

**Number:** 103.1  
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**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael E. Lang, Fire Chief

**PURPOSE**

To communicate to personnel over the radio on an incident that an extraordinary hazard exists, or when a sudden change in conditions has created an imminent danger to the personnel working on the incident.

In the event that a firefighter is experiencing an emergency requiring a MAYDAY, MAYDAY procedures will be followed as outlined in Arcadia Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline # MAYDAY.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Consistent with the intent and spirit of all emergency message formats, in the event of an “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” transmission, the IC may activate the emergency radio tones to ensure radio silence prior to communicating the nature of the hazard. As with all emergency message formats, when the message has been communicated, acknowledged and/or resolved the IC shall state “Resume Normal Radio Communications”
2. All officers should consider the many incident dynamics before declaring “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC”. Overuse of the hailing term “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” could lead to diluting its urgency. If the incident is organized efficiently and unity of command exists, the safety concern could potentially be transmitted to Division and Group supervisors via radio or face to face.
3. In the event the emergency traffic warrants an immediate evacuation, The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for making orderly and thorough contact with all on-scene personnel. Using clear text/plain language to identify the conditions, the IC should announce “All companies evacuate the building”, “Change from an offensive to defensive attack” or any other critical incident information that requires an immediate notification to all personnel on-scene.