

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: C-12
SECTION: Operations Division
DATE: 3/28/96
SUPERSEDES:
TITLE: **EMERGENCY SIGNALS ON THE FIRE GROUND - PROCEDURE**

When special emergency situations occur on the fire ground (i.e. imminent building collapse, firefighters trapped, etc.), which endangers fire department personnel or the public, a means of allowing emergency communications, must exist. There are two main areas this policy addresses:

1. A signal for emergency traffic where the communication channel is cleared for emergency traffic at the incident.
2. A signal for emergency evacuation of a building, geographical location, etc.

Per policy, an incident debriefing will held following a significant operational event where an emergency signal has been activated.

Emergency Radio Traffic Signal:

The term “**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**” will be used by any unit encountering an immediate perilous situation and will receive the highest communications priority from dispatch, command and all operating units. All operational radio traffic shall cease.

THE RADIO CHANNEL ABSOLUTELY BELONGS TO ANY UNIT GIVING THE “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” CALL.

To initiate the unit, key the mike and say “**Emergency Traffic**” pause for one (1) second then repeat “**Emergency Traffic**”. Then the emergency communication shall begin.

This must be repeated on every radio frequency used at the incident.

Emergency Evacuation Signal:

The Emergency Evacuation Signal will be ordered by the Incident Commander.

To initiate the Emergency evacuation signal, the IC will clear the radio channel by using the emergency radio traffic signal, then order the evacuation by keying the mike and saying “**Emergency Evacuation**” pause for one second then repeat “**Emergency Evacuation**”, followed by the fire ground signal of a two second blast on a fire apparatus air horn, a two second pause then another two second blast on the air horn and a two second pause. After five blasts from the air horn there is a break where the IC shall check unit personnel status.

During an emergency evacuation signal, all operational radio traffic shall cease—the only traffic allowed is when the divisions or groups transmit to account for their personnel.

The entire signal will be repeated until the IC has determined that all personnel have been accounted for.

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