



# NORFOLK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC

*Serving Norfolk and surrounding communities since 1902*



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## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS JUNE 1, 2026**

### **Purpose**

To establish standardized radio communication procedures for emergency incidents and ensure effective coordination between Norfolk Fire Department personnel, mutual aid companies, and Litchfield County Dispatch.

### **Communications Procedures**

#### **Dispatch and Response**

1. Members responding to an incident shall sign on with Litchfield County Dispatch using Response 800 or the department-issued iPad mounted in apparatus.
2. Norfolk Fire Department personnel shall utilize the "098 Norfolk Fire" talkgroup for routine response coordination and on-scene operations unless otherwise directed.

#### **Channel Assignments**

3. The first arriving officer shall announce all operational radio channel assignments during the initial size-up. This announcement should include command, fireground, water supply, and any other tactical channels assigned to the incident.

#### **Command Communications**

5. Command-level communications shall be conducted on the "Command 800" talkgroup whenever practical.
6. The Incident Commander shall maintain radio discipline and limit command transmissions to essential operational information.

#### **Fireground Communications**

7. All communications involving personnel operating within a structure shall be conducted on the VHF Fireground channel.
8. Interior crews shall maintain continuous communications with Command or other Supervisors while operating within an IDLH environment.

## **Mutual Aid Operations**

9. When mutual aid companies are assigned to interior or tactical operations, the Incident Commander should consider assigning:

- Northwest Interior, or
- An available Litchfield County Dispatch Scene Channel to improve fireground communications and reduce radio congestion.

## **Water Supply Operations**

10. Water supply operations should be assigned to a separate radio channel whenever practical.

11. The designated water supply channel shall be one that is available to and programmed in all responding mutual aid apparatus.

## **Radio Discipline**

12. Radio transmissions shall be clear, concise, and professional.

13. Members shall listen before transmitting and avoid unnecessary radio traffic.

14. Emergency traffic shall take precedence over all other communications.

15. All radio communications are considered part of the incident record and shall reflect the professionalism of the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department.

## **Responsibility**

All members are responsible for understanding and complying with this guideline. Officers shall ensure that personnel assigned to their supervision operate on the appropriate channels and maintain proper radio discipline throughout the incident.