



## Division 03

## Communication and Information Management/Technology

### Chapter 04 – Compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules/Regulations

January 2009

#### POLICY

The Fire/EMS Department will use the radio system in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Profanity** - The condition or quality of being profane; abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language.

**Indecent** - Offensive to good taste; unseemly.

**Obscene** – Offensive to accepted standards of decency or modesty.

#### PROCEDURES

The Fire Department radio system operates under licenses issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The licenses are issued to the Prince George's County Government, office of Central Services.

The FCC authorizes Fire Department radios to transmit communications essential to official public safety activities.

All communications, regardless of their nature, shall be restricted to the minimum practical transmission times.

Under the rules and regulations of the FCC, it is unlawful to:

- Transmit messages of a personal nature over Fire Department frequencies.
- Use profane, indecent, or obscene language over Fire Department frequencies.
- Willfully damage or permit radio equipment to be damaged.
- Cause unlawful or malicious interference with any other radio communications.
- Intercept and use or publish the contents of any radio message without the express permission of the proper authorities.
- Make unnecessary or unidentified transmissions.
- Transmit without first making sure that the transmission will not cause harmful interference.
- Make adjustments, repairs, installations, or alterations to radio transmitter. It is required by law that only a licensed radio technician makes adjustments and repairs.
- Deny access to any radio equipment if a properly identified representative from the FCC asks to inspect the equipment. The equipment must be made available for inspection at any reasonable hour.



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

- To transmit a call signal, letter, or numeral that has not been assigned by proper authorities.

All fire/rescue service personnel are directed to strictly adhere to all rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

- Messages not essential to official Fire Department activities must be conveyed through another medium.
- Messages of a personal nature will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Denial of frequency use or other appropriate measures will be effected where violations continue to exist, including disciplinary action as warranted.

### REFERENCES

N/A

### FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A