

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 017-003

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Communications

Rescinds:

Title: Priority Calls/Radio
Emergency Button

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for priority calls and the use of signal 91 by Dispatcher personnel and the activation of the Radio Emergency Button.

POLICY

Because there are times that it is critical to have a clear channel for emergencies, the following guidelines are established.]

Procedures

A. Use of Signal 91

1. Under normal situations the dispatcher is to no longer institute a signal 91 automatically.
2. Requests for signal 91's will be requested by the supervisor or officer in the field.
3. Once a signal 91 is requested the dispatcher will activate the channel marker, unless authorized NOT to by a supervisor or officer, and place a 91 in effect.
4. The channel marker will stay on as long as the 91 is in effect.
5. Dispatchers may on their own institute a 91 if they feel the call requires a clear channel. Some examples of this would be:
 - a. Serious Crimes in Progress.
 - b. Officers calling for assistance.

B. Activation of Radio Emergency Button

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1. Assigned portable and mobile car radios are equipped with emergency buttons. If an officer needs to declare an emergency and is unable to do so verbally, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - a. Push the round, orange button on top of the portable or, the orange triangular button on the mobile unit.
 - b. An audible and visual signal will occur on the radio console in central communications. The radio will be keyed for 45 seconds and inoperable.
 - c. The dispatcher will then attempt to contact the officer by the procedure below.

C. Dispatcher Procedure on Emergency Button Activation

1. The following will be done when the emergency signal comes into the console for either police or fire units:

D. Police Procedure

1. Silence the alarm as per emergency reset procedures.
2. Attempt to contact the unit:
 - a. If unit responds, state Signal 119 (Do you have an emergency)
 - b. If unit responds with a negative, state Signal 120 (you've activated your emergency button).
 - c. If the unit does not answer or respond with an affirmative to the Signal 119, immediately dispatch a second unit to the last known location. If the location is not known, give out a Signal 10 for all personnel to BOLO for the officer, including the assigned car number of his/her vehicle.

E. Fire Procedure

1. Follow the above procedure eliminating radio signals and use plain language.
2. If the emergency button is hit accidentally, immediately turn off the radio then turn it back on. Contact and inform dispatch personnel.