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### Section 4-1: Radio Communications

**Purpose:** This guideline is to establish efficient communications when using mobile and portable radios on emergency and non-emergency incidents.

**Guideline:**

1. This guideline is to establish common radio usage as described in the Adams County Communications SOGs.
2. **Mobile Radios:**
  - A. All apparatus is equipped with Adams and York County Fire radios (Station 33-3 and Service 33 do not have York County radios)
  - B. These radios are to be used to communicate with Adams and York County 911 Centers in regards to response, arrival, on scene, and returning from the incident.
  - C. The mobile radio will also be used for on-scene communications (e.g. assignments).
3. **Portable Radios:**
  - A. Each Line Officer is issued a portable radio for on-scene communications.
  - B. The apparatus is also equipped with a portable radio per riding position to communicate on the incident scene.

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C. To avoid radio feedback, the portable radio should be turned to fire ground after arriving on the scene.

**4. Use of Mobile and Portable Radios:**

- A. First arriving unit should give a scene size-up report (smoke showing, description of MVA scene, etc.).
- B. Firefighters should limit their radio transmissions to a minimum. The radios are to be used for emergency and fire ground operational messages only. The radio can be used by a firefighter if assigned as a group leader or a position within the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- C. Line Officers are responsible for keeping the Incident Commander (IC), updated of the status of the incident and to obtain orders for their particular assignment.
- D. The Line Officer or firefighter should wait until after the “beep” when pressing the transmit button before speaking to avoid part of their message from being lost.
- E. Remain calm at all times and know what you are going to say before pressing the transmit button. Radio transmissions should normally not exceed 30 seconds.
- F. Clean and common language will be used at all times (e.g. no vulgar or profane language).
- G. There is to be no use of codes (e.g. 10 codes). This is in accordance with the NIMS and Adams County Communications SOGs.

\*Each member of the United Hook and Ladder Company #33 should read the guidelines set forth by the Adams County Department of Emergency Services office. This will further describe how the radios are to be used.\*

