

BERKS COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE, HAZMAT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, & EMS RADIO DESIGNATORS

ver. 01-31-08

GENERAL NOTE - The designations below are established to be common language, and easily understandable by personnel from within the same discipline. Further, they are established to have a reasonable certainty of being understandable by emergency responders from other disciplines. In no way is it reasonable that a policy can meet every possible circumstance that might arise during emergency operations. System users confronting such a situation should be prepared to adapt by using designators that are clear, easy to understand, and define the rank/function, discipline and jurisdiction of the user.

<u>Category/ Discipline</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Radio ID</u> (Except where otherwise designated in the definition column, XX represents the company number for fire EMS, and County EMA, and the Berks County municipality number for local EMA, fire police, and the Commissioner rank in both fire and police)	<u>Examples</u>
CROSS DISCIPLINARY				
	ORGANIZATION/ AGENCY	EMS and fire agencies shall utilize the "COMPANY" designation in representation of their agency as a whole. This designation shall also be used for the County Special Operations Group. Municipal Emergency Management operations are not designated "in whole."	Company XX	Company 67 Company 555
PERSONNEL				
HIERARCHICAL				
NOTE: Personnel are to be designated in a rank fashion using the "personnel hierarchical" designations. Except where noted, an organization may have multiple persons filling the same rank. In these cases, as with apparatus/vehicles, the designation for the personnel will be followed with a "1" for the second of the rank, a "2" for the third of a rank, etc. This numbered suffix will not be understood to imply a senior or superior position within the rank.	COMMISSIONER	The designation "Commissioner" is reserved for organizations with a rank that is superior to the organization Chief, or organizations with an individual overseeing multiple Chiefs. An organization will not have more than one Commissioner. Use of this designation must be approved in advance by Berks County Communications due to potential organization numbering conflicts.	FC XX	FC 25
	CHIEF	The individual designated as "Chief" is USUALLY the highest ranking individual in an organization (NOTE: Commissioner above). An organization usually will not, but may, have multiple Chiefs.	Chief XX	Chief 67 Chief 555 Chief 710
	DEPUTY	These ranks are to be assigned in the order listed to the right to organizational officers in a hierarchical fashion subordinate to Chief. An organization will likely have multiples of any of these ranks. An organization need not fill ranks they desire not to fill.	Deputy XX	Deputy 67 Deputy 67-1 Deputy 710
	ASSISTANT		Assistant XX	Assistant 555
	CAPTAIN		Captain XX	Captain 67-1
	LIEUTENANT		Lieutenant XX	Lieutenant 67-2
	SERGEANT		Sergeant XX	Sergeant 67
	CORPORAL	Fire Police officer ranks shall utilize the designator "FP" in front of the officer designator, for example FP CAPTAIN, FP LIEUTENANT, etc.	Corporal XX	Corporal 67
FIREFIGHTER (Fire)/ EMT (EMS)/ PARAMEDIC (EMS)/ TECHNICIAN (HazMat)/ DISPATCHER/ COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGERS (EMC) FIRE POLICE	These designations are to be utilized in the appropriate disciplines to designate rank and file workers. Individual organizations may one of three formats to designate personnel as follows: Rank and file workers may use a TITLE-NUMERIC DESIGNATOR identifier OR Rank and file workers may use a TITLE-LAST NAME DESIGNATOR identifier OR RANK and file workers may use a RIDING POSITION identifier if defined by their organization Examples of all three possibilities above are shown to the right.	Firefighter XX 1 OR Firefighter XX LN OR Apparatus/unit position designation	Firefighter 67-1 OR Firefighter 67 Smith OR Engine 67 Nozzleman AND EMT 555-1 OR EMT Jones OR Medic 555 EMT AND EM 700-4 OR EM Jones	
MISCELLANEOUS				
	COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UNITS	This designator is reserved for use by the Berks County Communications Center to identify communications support units.	COMM 790	COMM 790
	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER	This is the designation that shall be utilized by anyone calling on radio from a municipality's legally designated emergency operations center.	"MUNICIPALITY NAME" EOC	Exeter Township EOC
	FIRE MARSHAL	The individual filling the role of Fire Marshal is generally the designated investigator or fire code enforcement resource for a jurisdiction/organization.	FM XX	FM 67 FM 25
	LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	The individual using this designation shall be the person legally appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of PA as the EMC of the municipality. Regionalized emergency management coalitions must establish which municipal designator within the region will be used by the coordinator.	EMC XX	EMC 34
	DEPUTY LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	This is the designation that shall be used by an individual designated as a deputy municipal emergency management coordinator.	Deputy EM XX	Deputy EM 34

EMS				
	AMBULANCE	A vehicle licensed by the PA DOH as an BLS unit. This designation will only be utilized when an appropriate crew and equipment are on-board per licensure. On any given vehicle it may be interchanged with "Medic" as necessary to meet personnel and portable equipment availability.	Ambulance XXX	Ambulance 555
	ATV	A vehicle that is all terrain and/or all-wheel drive, brought to the scene by a trailer or other vehicle equipped to transport the unit. It may or may not be equipped with radio or other equipment for the specific job.	ATV XXX	ATV 555
	CAR	A unit of a sedan or SUV type utilized for the carrying of personnel and/or equipment.	Car XXX	Car 555
	MCI	A vehicle designed for the primary purpose of transporting a large specialized medical equipment cache for use at mass casualty incidents. This designation may only be made by the county.	MCI XXX	MCI 555
	MEDIC	A vehicle licensed by the PA DOH as an ALS unit with patient transport capability. This designation will only be utilized when an appropriate crew and equipment are on-board per licensure. On any given vehicle it may be interchanged with "Ambulance" as necessary to meet personnel and portable equipment availability.	Medic XXX	Medic 555
	SQUAD	A vehicle licensed by the PA DOH as an ALS unit without patient transport capability. This designation will only be utilized when an appropriate crew and equipment are on-board per licensure.	Squad XXX	Squad 555
	UTILITY	A unit primarily serving the role of an equipment mover or service vehicle. May also be used for designation of a vehicle that does not fit any other designation.	Utility XXX	Utility 555
	WHEELCHAIR	A vehicle designed for the primary purpose of transporting wheelchair bound patients. The unit must be equipped with a lift or specialty ramps for loading/unloading.	Wheelchair XXX	Wheelchair 555

FIRE				
All units defined below shall meet the applicable NFPA requirements for the year of manufacture, and shall be maintained on an ongoing basis per NFPA standards. All units defined below shall be owned by an agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or an organization chartered as a fire company in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.				
AERIAL FIRE APPARATUS <i>(Use one of the subdefinitions to the right)</i>	An apparatus meeting the definitions of NFPA 1901, Chapters 8. All aerial apparatus shall be defined as one of the following: LADDER: An aerial apparatus equipped with a straight ladder that meets NFPA 1901, Chapter 20, Section 2. SNORKEL: An aerial apparatus upon which the aerial device is non-climbable, includes a platform, and is constructed of 2 or more articulating booms. TOWER: An aerial apparatus upon which the aerial device is constructed of 2 or more telescoping sections and includes a platform.	Ladder XX Snorkel XX Tower XX	Ladder 67 Snorkel 67 Tower 67	
AIR	An apparatus that's primary purpose is to refill breathing air cylinders, and meets: 1. Minimum capacity of 3,000 Cu.Ft. breathing quality air 2. Storage must be filled from certified sources which are tested on at least a semi-annual basis, and current Certificate of Air Quality must be available. 3. Capability to fill 4500psi & 2216psi cylinders 4. Adequate means of verifying and documenting cylinders to be filled.	Air XX	Air 67	
AIRPORT CRASH	Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units (ARFF) stationed on airport property and responsible for aircraft emergencies. Unit must comply with standards set forth in NFPA 414	ARFF XX	ARFF 67	
ATTACK	A unit, generally smaller than an engine, designed for the purpose of rapid response fire attack or support operations. This unit shall meet the requirements in Chapter 6 of NFPA 1901.	Attack XX	Attack 67	
ATV	A vehicle that is all terrain and/or all-wheel drive, brought to the scene by a trailer or other vehicle equipped to transport the unit. It may or may not be equipped with radio or other equipment for the specific job.	ATV XX	ATV 67	
BRUSH	An all wheel drive unit generally designed for firefighting in brush or wildland areas. Shall have the following minimum equipment: 1) Minimum 10 GPM pump. 2) Minimum 50 Gallon water tank 3) 1 - chain saw 4) 1 - pre-connected hand line, any size 150 ft. in length or longer 5) 2 - Indian tanks, Backpack tanks or P.W.s 6) an assortment totaling 4 shovels, rakes or brush hooks	Brush XX	Brush 67	
CANTEEN	A unit generally designated for serving refreshments to emergency service personnel at an emergency scene.	Canteen XX	Canteen 67	
CAR	A unit of a sedan or SUV type utilized for the carrying of personnel and/or equipment.	Car XX	Car 67	
COLLAPSE	Unit primarily designed for transporting equipment intended for stabilization of various collapse (or potential collapse) environments, including below and above grade situations.	Collapse XX	Collapse 67	
ENGINE	A unit primarily designed to transport personnel and equipment, a motor driven pump and water tank, hose, and appliances for fire suppression. 1. Must have 1000gpm or greater capacity pump. 2. Minimum 800ft of 3" or larger supply hose. 3. Minimum (1) master stream device with a minimum flow rate of 500gpm	Engine XX	Engine 67	
ENGINE/TANKER	A unit that meets all criteria outlined in the definitions for both Engine and Tanker apparatus.			
MARINE	A powered or non-powered floating craft of any design intended for use on water during emergency operations. Craft must be capable of being trailered/carried on an organization owned trailer or vehicle. Unit must be registered with PA Fish and Boat Commission.	Marine XX	Marine 67	
MOBILE COMMAND POST	A unit primarily designed for the purpose of providing a mobile command environment during emergency operations.	CP XX	CP 67	
QUINT	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of combining subsets of the engine and aerial device that meets the requirements of NFPA 1901, Chapter 9	Quint XX	Quint 67	
REHAB	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of supporting the health and welfare of emergency responders beyond just the provision of food and drink. The unit shall be equipped to assist responders by mitigating the impact of environmental stressors.	Rehab XX	Rehab 67	
RESCUE	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of supporting victim rescue from a situation of entanglement, entrapment, or confinement. Situations include, but are not limited to, auto accidents, industrial accidents, residential rescues, etc. Unit shall meet equipment requirements set forth for the Operations Level in Appendix A of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program.	Rescue XX	Rescue 67	

RESCUE/ENGINE	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of meeting the intended use of both the engine and a minimal subset of the rescue unit types. 1. Unit shall meet all the criteria for the Engine Category 2. Unit shall meet equipment requirements set forth for the First Response Level in Appendix A of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program.	Rescue-Engine XX	Rescue-Engine 67
SCUBA	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of supporting and/or transporting personnel trained and equipped specifically for underwater rescue /recovery operations. Unit must also carry adapter for refill of SCUBA cylinders.	SCUBA XX	SCUBA 67
TANKER	A unit designed primarily for transporting large amounts of water to emergency scenes. 1. Minimum tank size of 1,500 gallons. 2. Minimum dump rate of 1000 gpm. 3. Minimum of (2), 2 1/2" direct fill connections	Tanker XX	Tanker 67
TRAFFIC	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of transporting personnel and equipment to control and detour traffic.	Traffic XX	Traffic 67
UTILITY	A unit primarily serving the role of an equipment mover or service vehicle. May also be used for designation of a vehicle that does not fit any other designation.	Utility XX	Utility 67
HAZMAT			
CAR	A unit of a sedan or SUV type utilized for the carrying of personnel and/or equipment.	Car XXX	Car 700
DECON	A unit primarily designed for transporting personnel and/or equipment for use in decontamination efforts following a hazardous materials incident. Unit must be inspected and designated by county emergency management.	Decon XX	Decon 67
FOAM	A unit primarily designed for transporting equipment needed for the production and delivery of a large quantity of Class B firefighting foam. As a minimum, the unit must be equipped with: 1. 300 gal. of AR-AFFF foam concentrate 2. Appliances to establish (2) 1.5", (1) 2.5", and (1) master stream foam delivery line. Unit must be inspected and designated by county emergency management.	Foam XX	Foam 67
HAZMAT	A unit operated generally for the purpose of transporting specialized equipment and/or personnel trained in the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents. Unit must be inspected and designated by county emergency management.	Hazmat XX	Hazmat 710
SPILL	A unit designed primarily for the purpose of transporting large quantities of hydrocarbon spill confinement materials. Minimum equipment required shall be 1 ton of bulk absorbent material, containment materials appropriate for minor plugging and patching, absorbent materials in various configurations (booms, socks, pads, sweeps) and tools, apparatus, and PPE appropriate for hydrocarbon containment and confinement operations. Unit must be inspected and designated by county emergency management.	Spill XX	Spill 67
UTILITY	A unit primarily serving the role of an equipment mover or service vehicle. May also be used for designation of a vehicle that does not fit any other designation.	Utility XX	Utility 67

CAD PSEUDOTYPES				
CAD Pseudotypes are representations of categories that can be designated for dispatch to allow the AHJ to essentially ask for the next available unit that meets any of the definitions contained within the pseudotype. THESE ARE NOT RADIO IDENTIFIERS.	PSEUDO-ENGINE	Category includes ENGINE and RESCUE/ENGNE and ENGINE/TANKER and QUINT units		
	PSEUDO-RESCUE	Category includes RESCUE and RESCUE/ENGNE units		
	PSEUDO-TANKER	Category includes TANKER and ENGINE/TANKER units		
	PSEUDO-AERIAL	Category includes LADDER and TOWER and QUINT and SNORKEL units		
	PSEUDO-ATTACK	Category includes ATTACK and ENGINEand RESCUE/ENGNE and ENGINE/TANKER and QUINT units		
CAD SPECIAL TAGS				
CAD Special Tags are "extras" that can be associated with any unit type to enable dispatchers to readily locate a needed piece of equipment or capability.	CAFS	Apparatus must have a manufacturer installed foam generation and delivery system that combines air under pressure with foam solution.		
	All wheel drive	A unit with all wheel drive capability.		
	Air cascade capability	Unit is equipped to fill SCBA cylinders with a rated fill enclosure.. Storage banks must have a minimum capacity of 5000 psi and the system must have at least (4) banks.		
	Light tower	Unit is equipped with an elevating lighting tower with a minimum of 4000 watts of lighting.		

Due to potential numbering conflicts, these designations shall be utilized only when operating on primary tactical channels. When units operate "off-channel" (Eg. patches open between police and fire, or city fire & county fire, or when personnel communicate off normal channels) units shall utilize a preface identifier that is a descriptor for their agency prior to the unit type to clarify. Examples include CITY Engine , COUNTY Engine 1, FIRE Commissioner 34.