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“COMBAT READY” FIREFIGHTING

FIREGROUND PROVEN TIPS, TECHNIQUES & DRILLS

Fire Engineering®

Improving Fire Ground Radio Transmissions

By Captain Danny Troxell, DCFD

Most firefighters on today’s fire grounds are equipped with their own portable radios. This has served to greatly enhance the safety of our members while operating in hazardous environments. However, many members are not taught the proper way to transmit on these radios. As such, many messages on the fire ground are often garbled and unreadable. This is especially true if your department utilizes a digital radio system. There are methods and techniques that can be utilized improving the quality of these transmissions. What follows are some tips on how to accomplish this:



Voice Port

Whenever possible, utilize a “voice port” on the SCBA face piece when transmitting through a face piece. These ports are usually located on both sides of the face piece, and are designed to make it possible to transmit clearly and intelligibly

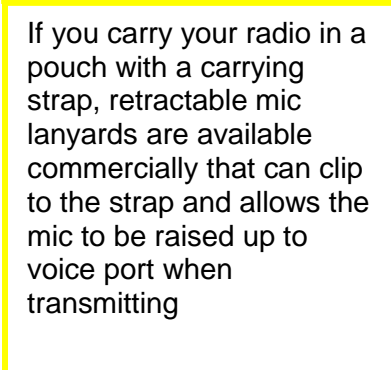


Retractable Mic Lanyard

A retractable mic lanyard can also be used if you carry your radio in a radio pocket. The lanyard can be attached to the radio clip to allow the mic to be raised up to the voice port when transmitting



When transmitting, hold the mic on or very close to the voice port. Use your hand to cup the back of the mic. This will help to muffle any background noise, especially when operating on a digital radio system



If you carry your radio in a pouch with a carrying strap, retractable mic lanyards are available commercially that can clip to the strap and allows the mic to be raised up to voice port when transmitting



When wearing the radio under the coat with the mic extended through the collar, a retractable lanyard can be attached to your collar to keep the mike in place and allow it to be raised up to the voice port