

	JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	Initial: 03-01-2006 Revised:
	SOP#: FIRE 3-08	
	Subject: Emergency Traffic Only Conditions	

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ONLY CONDITIONS

A. PURPOSE

At times the volume of traffic, both on the radio and telephone, reaches a point where it starts to overload the system (example: spring and fall brush fire seasons, major fires or disasters, etc.). In such overload conditions the Communications Center will institute an "emergency traffic only" statement in order to sort out the priorities and be sure priority calls are transmitted without delay or interruption.

B. PROCEDURE

1. When there is a high volume of message traffic and conditions become congested, the County may institute an "Emergency Traffic Only" statement.
2. The "emergency traffic only" will be instituted by radio using the following message:

"Beeeeeeep, (Alert tone 1) "Attention all companies. Jefferson County is now operating under emergency traffic only conditions. Utilize assigned fire grounds for all traffic."
3. This message will be broadcast under the authority of the supervisor or senior dispatcher, and will be broadcast on fire and EMS dispatch.
4. When an "emergency traffic only" condition exists, **all individual traffic will cease, with the exception of emergency traffic** and, whenever possible, the O.I.C. should advise of station or apparatus status changes rather than each individual unit.
5. The "emergency traffic only" condition is not intended to cease transmissions by the O.I.C. to the Communications Center relative to the conditions of the call or orders to be relayed to responding apparatus.
6. The words "*Jefferson County is operating under emergency traffic only*" will be announced every hour until the congestion is resolved, at which time a message will be broadcast advising that the condition has been lifted.