

Land mobile radio communications

Introduction

When to use Fire and Emergency New Zealand personnel will use this procedure when communicating via the Land Mobile Radio LMR network.

Purpose This document describes the procedures to follow when communicating either verbally or using the Message Signalling Unit (MSU) via the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) network.

Procedure

Mobile signalling units and status messages Mobile signalling units (MSUs) are the units on appliances that are used for sending automated status messages, to minimise radio transmission time.

Personnel attempting to contact the ComCen will do so by using either the Routine or Priority button, then will wait for a response from ComCen before passing their message.

If automated status messaging is unavailable, status messages must be transmitted verbally on the LMR.

Verbal messages Verbal messages passed by LMR shall:

- start with the call sign of the party being called
- always use full call signs
- use the appropriate K code whenever possible
- be clear, accurate, relevant and timely
- use the phonetic alphabet when clarity is required, e.g. when spelling names of hazardous substances.

Alternative forms of communications The use of a cellular or landline is appropriate for:

- communications with ambulance clinical support
- transmission of hazardous substance names and hazardous action guide (HAG) codes
- messages of a sensitive nature that should not be transmitted over the air.

Message types

Arrival message The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the first arriving appliance will pass an arrival message for other responding appliances (sent by LMR and MSU) that will:

- verify the address of the call, AND
- describe the situation and type of incident using the appropriate K code.
- ComCen dispatchers will acknowledge verbal arrival messages.

Priority message A Priority message indicates that urgency is required and requests radio channel priority.

Priority messages will be used in the following circumstances:

- persons reported
- assistance messages, greater alarms or the make-up of individual appliances
- urgent response of other services
- running call to appliance or station

ComCen may also initiate a Priority message when important or crew safety information has been received.

Note: Pressing 'Priority' on the MSU will sound a distinct alarm in the ComCen resulting in an immediate response.

Situation report A situation report (SitRep) provides a description of the incident and the measures being taken to manage that incident.

SitReps are to be transmitted in the following circumstances:

- within five minutes of arrival at an incident, and subsequently at intervals of 30 minutes or less
- when a major change in the incident situation occurs
- to request non-urgent assistance
- when all persons are accounted for
- a change of command
- a command or control point is established
- a Fire and Emergency vehicle is unable to proceed
- injuries or fatalities, using the appropriate patient status or K code.

Stop message A Stop message ('Stop mobilising') means that the currently assigned resources are sufficient and further resources are not required.

A Stop message may contain details of a SitRep.

K Codes

Status	All vehicles
	<p>K0 - not available (State location)</p> <p>K1 - proceeding to incident</p> <p>K2 - in attendance at incident</p> <p>K3 - on RT outside normal turnout area</p> <p>K4 - on RT inside normal turnout area</p> <p>K5 - on RT available at incident</p> <p>K6 - on pager (state location)</p> <p>K7 - at normal station</p> <p>K8 - not allocated</p> <p>K9 - off RT – (state location)</p> <p>K10 - re-commissioning appliance</p> <p>KE - unable to proceed (state reason) (<i>spoken Kay echo</i>)</p>
Arrival messages	<p>First appliance in attendance</p> <p>K55 - special service incident</p> <p>K66 - vegetation, scrub or rubbish fire</p> <p>K77 - nothing showing</p> <p>K88 - property fire apparently small</p> <p>K99 - property fire well involved</p>
Support services	<p>(state the service required, and if necessary, the reason)</p> <p>K11 - suffix is used in CAD and not by responding appliances</p> <p>K11P - Police (<i>spoken K11 Police</i>)</p> <p>K11P-1 - Police – confidential (<i>spoken K11-1 Police</i>)</p> <p>K11P-2 - Police – urgent, scene or personnel safety</p>
Intelligence	<p>K12 - suspicious nature (deliberate with intent to cause damage)</p> <p>K13 - traumatic/wellbeing/disturbing/infectious incident</p> <p>K14 - uncontrolled burn/smoke nuisance</p> <p>K15 - incident involved hazardous substance</p> <p>K16 – incident involved fireworks</p>
Appliance movement	<p>K20 - PRIORITY MESSAGE risk to crew safety DO NOT PROCEED (ComCen only)</p> <p>K22 - is your appliance available for a further call?</p> <p>K22-1 - appliance is available to respond to a further call</p> <p>K22-2 - have you any appliances that can be released?</p> <p>K25 - proceed to, and stand-by at (location)</p>

K25-1 - appliance standing by awaiting instructions at (location)
 K26 - appliance will be engaged at incident for (time)
 K26-1 - appliance still engaged, no additional developments
 K28 - response no longer required (ComCcen only)
 K28-1 return other or specific responding appliances

Radio procedure

K30 - request 'agency' monitor IGC liaison (IGC VHF – Zone A/CH10)
 K31 - request permission to go off RT (fires and standbys)
 K32 - on radio test – how do you receive?
 K33 - radio test received satisfactorily (strength 1 to 5)
 K34 - repeat your message
 K35 - verify address of call
 K35-1 - request map reference
 K36 - contact ComCcen by telephone
 K36-1 - contact ComCcen by telephone urgently
 K37 - Mobility App has updated information (used by ComCcen)
 K37-1 - updated information received (used by the Mobility App user)
 K38 - associate this officer/callsign to incident (state incident address)
 K39 - retransmit your current status (MSU or verbal)
 K39-1 - transmit K1

Incident ground command

K41 - fatality (indicate number with suffix)
 K42 - fire suppressed, commencing overhaul
 K43 - all available personnel fully utilised
 K44 - command or control point established (OIC and location)
 K45 - command responsibility change (state name)

Stop messages

K46-1 – false alarm - good intent
 K46-2 – false alarm - accidental
 K46-3 – false alarm - defective apparatus
 K46-4 – false alarm - malicious
 K46-5 – false alarm - alarm agent in attendance
 K46-6 – false alarm - nothing showing on panel
 K46-7 - false alarm - undetermined alarm activation
 K47 – unchanged from SitRep
 K48 – details to follow
 K49 - stood down by requesting agency (state service)

Trial evacuation

K51 - trial evacuation to be carried out at (state location)

K52 - was a 111-call received? (state location)

K53 - evacuation successful (state location)

Patient messages

Sitrep messages about patients are to contain the following on each patient:

- age
- gender
- status
- chief complaint
- treatment (e.g. CPR, First response duties).

Fire and Emergency personnel will use the following patient status codes to communicate the status of casualties at incidents.

Status	Patient condition	Stability	Potential to deteriorate	Special criteria
Zero	deceased			
One	critical, extreme	unstable	obvious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under active resuscitation to maintain airway, breathing, or circulation, e.g. airway obstruction • uncontrolled haemorrhage • needs definitive medical intervention on arrival at hospital.
Two	serious	unstable	probable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not under active resuscitation, but airway, breathing, or circulation at risk • needs definitive medical intervention within 10 minutes of arrival at hospital.
Three	moderate	stable	unlikely	
Four	minor	stable	none	

Phonetic alphabet

A	Alpha	J	Juliet	S	Sierra
B	Bravo	K	Kilo	T	Tango
C	Charlie	L	Lima	U	Uniform
D	Delta	M	Mike	V	Victor
E	Echo	N	November	W	Whiskey
F	Foxtrot	O	Oscar	X	X-ray
G	Golf	P	Papa	Y	Yankee
H	Hotel	Q	Quebec	Z	Zulu
I	India	R	Romeo		

Related information

Policy

[M3-2 POP Land mobile radio communications](#)

Reference

[M1 TM Command and control technical manual](#)

Document information

Move Document information to the bottom of the page (or top of page 2, if only one page).

Owner	National Manager Response Capability
Stewardship	National Communications Centre Manager
Last reviewed	18 March 2022
Review period	Every second year

Record of amendments

Date	Brief description of amendment
15 January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'include full call signs at all times' added to Verbal messages list • Rebranded for Fire and Emergency • Links updated to published documents
21 May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated minor changes to k-codes to match printed version. • Updated template.
09 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor update to introduction, procedure and message improves explanation • Added new and removed redundant K-Codes
11 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised K Codes
18 March 2022	Added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K37 Mobility App has updated information (used by ComCen) • K37-1 - Updated information received (used by the Mobility app user)