



# Common Fireground Communication Pitfalls



**Standard:** SOG 1105 Incident Command System

## You are who you are....

Your radio ID does not change with your task. If you are doing ventilation you are NOT ventilation group unless command has designated you as the group supervisor.

**Example:**

**“Engine 24 will be on side C performing horizontal ventilation....”**

**NOT “Ventilation group is on side C removing the bedroom window.”**

**GOOD**

“Haverhill Command  
Engine 24....”

“Command from fire  
attack...”

**BAD**

## Which is which?

Each person on a fire engine has a unique radio identification:

**Engine Officer: Engine 21**

**Driver: Driver Engine 21**

**Firefighter: Firefighter Engine 21**



# Common Fireground Communication Pitfalls



**COMMAND FROM  
E44!!!! WE ARE ENTERING  
SIDE A WITH A PAR OF 4 AND  
ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO A  
LEFT HAND SEARCH  
PATTERN....**

**Speak in a clear voice, a little louder than normal speech but do not scream. Speak slowly and use short direct phrases. Allow some air time for the listener to respond.**

**E31 will be landing zone command....**

**There is only one command per incident. If you are performing a task you remain your unit ID unless designated a group or division by command.**



**Interior sector to command....**

**We no longer use the term sector. That phrasing was part of a system we used years ago but it is no longer recognized.**

**This unit.....at this time.....do you copy? ...copy that....**

**Try to avoid unnatural jargon and unnecessary phrases.**

**Don't be this guy!**



# Common Fireground Communication Pitfalls



## Close the Loop

When making an important transmission, it is a good practice to “echo back” what was said so it is clear to both sender and receiver that the information was understood.

For example:

“E18 Maplewood Command, you and your crew take the 2 ½ from E16 and stretch it into the kitchen through the door on side A.”

“Copy, E18 is proceeding to E16 to take the 2 ½ to the kitchen through the door on side A.”

You do not need to echo every single communication. It is a good idea to do it when the communication involves complex instructions or contains critical information.

## When I nod my head, you hit it!

