



General Order 81.4 - Communications

PURPOSE: Outline procedures when radio communications break down.

DATE OF APPROVAL: 02/10/00

DATE OF ISSUE: 10/01/00

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/00

REVIEW DATE: Annual

AMENDS: 81.4.2

THIS ORDER CANCELS: 81.4 Approved 03/09/98

ISSUED BY : Sheriff Gary E. Steed

REVIEWED BY: Standard Review Committee



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81.4.1 COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE, GENERAL

- A. Maintaining communications between deputies and communications dispatchers is imperative to assure both safety to the employees and to provide service to the community.
- B. Communications failure can result from a specific equipment/power failure up to a catastrophic event, such as a tornado or severe winter storm.
- C. The procedures in this General Order are in place so that in the event primary communications are lost, departmental operations can continue with minimal interruption.
- D. The procedures outlined in Section [81.4.2](#) are general in nature and may be modified as needed, based on the specific causes of the communications failure.

81.4.2 COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE, PROCEDURE

- A. In the event radio communications appear terminated on the primary talk group with the Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Center (S.C.E.C.), but employees can still send/receive radio traffic:

1. A field supervisor, or designee thereof, shall proceed to a telephone and attempt to establish contact with S.C.E.C.
 2. All units will remain on their primary talk groups, unless ordered to switch.
 3. The field supervisor, or designee thereof, will maintain contact with S.C.E.C. and act as a relay until S.C.E.C. can establish direct contact with field units.
 4. **(R)** Deputies who have not been on the air and find themselves unable to contact S.C.E.C., should try to make contact with S.C.E.C. by telephone.
- B. In the event radio communications appear terminated on the primary talk group with S.C.E.C. and all other units:
1. Deputies should switch to the nearest conventional tower and attempt to establish radio contact with S.C.E.C. The four (4) conventional towers are located as follows;
 - a. Conventional west -- Goddard;
 - b. Conventional south -- Haysville;
 - c. Conventional north -- Greyhound Park; and
 - d. Conventional east -- 21st St. North and Wood-lawn.
 2. Once radio contact is established, units will remain on a conventional tower and in range until otherwise directed.
 3. Units should severely limit their radio traffic on a conventional tower, as all law enforcement, fire services and medical services in Sedgwick County will be forced to operate on the same system and frequency.
- C. In the event radio communications appear terminated on the conventional towers with S.C.E.C.:
1. All units will shift to the south talk-around channel and proceed toward the county courthouse until radio contact is established between field units.
 2. Field units will hold that position until further advised.
 3. **(R)** The field supervisor shall proceed to the courthouse to establish contact with both S.C.E.C. and all field units. Deputies that cannot make contact with S.C.E.C. should attempt contact by telephone.
 4. Radio traffic should be severely limited at this point, as only four (4) talk-around channels are available for all emergency services in Sedgwick County.
- D. In the event that field units can still communicate on conventional towers with each other (but not S.C.E.C.), units should switch to the south conventional tower.
1. Field units should move as necessary to make use of the south conventional tower.

