

In February 2006, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center sent out a bulletin requiring that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. Beginning in the fiscal year that started October 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding will be contingent on the use of common terminology in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines. The Alaska State Interoperability Executive Committee has recommended this change as well.

Effective November 1, 2008, the Department will be converting from the current 10 codes to the Common Language Protocol proposed by the State Interoperability Panel. This protocol is a step toward ensuring that during a multi-jurisdictional incident or any time different agencies must communicate through the radio system, everyone involved understands what is being communicated. Four Signals have been developed by the State Interoperability Panel after soliciting feedback from law enforcement, fire and EMS users. The signals and their definitions are listed below:

- **Signal 1** – Mayday/Emergency. This will be used in the place of 10-69 (Officer Emergency). The issuer should include location with the transmission and any other pertinent information concerning the emergency.
- **Signal 2** – Backup Needed. This will replace 10-68 (Officer Needs Assistance); there is no immediate life threat but the issuer does not want the suspect to know backup has been requested. It will still be acceptable to simply request backup instead of using the signal.
- **Signal 3** – When used by the unit it indicates taking subject into custody and resistance is anticipated. When issued by a dispatcher this indicates that the unit should take the subject into custody and anticipate resistance. This will alert others to the fact that you may need assistance but are not directly requesting it at the current time.
- **Signal 4** – Confidential/critical information to be relayed. This will be used instead of 10-92 to indicate that a possible hit has been received. It can also be used by the dispatcher to alert the unit that information needs to be relayed to them that should not be heard by the subject. The unit should respond with current location and indicate whether or not the dispatcher can go ahead with the information. If the hit information includes a response from NCIC that indicates one of the terrorist codes – the dispatchers will still use those codes prior to transmitting the information\*:
  - **NCIC Code 1** – Approach with caution. Subject should be arrested immediately. Contact the Terrorist Screening Center immediately.
  - **NCIC Code 2** – Approach with caution. Subject may be associated with terrorism or terrorist activities. Subject maybe detained for a reasonable amount of time and interviewed. Contact the Terrorist Screening Center immediately.
  - **NCIC Code 3** – Do not alert subject that his/her name appears on the Watch List. Do not arrest unless there is evidence of violation of

federal, state or local statutes. The Terrorist Screening Center can be contacted for additional guidance.

- **NCIC Code 4** – Officer Safety/Informational purposes only. Do not alert subject that his/her name appears on the Watch List. Do not arrest unless there is evidence of violation of federal, state or local statutes. The Terrorist Screening Center can be contacted for additional guidance.

\*FBI and Alaska JTTF should be contacted for assistance with any of these individuals stopped.

The use of 10-4 to acknowledge a transmission will also continue. This 10 code has been deemed universal and should not cause any problems during inter-agency communications.

All other radio communications will be conducted using plain English. In order to maintain brevity and professionalism on the radio, the Department will be using the definitions already established on the current 10 code list. For example, under the new system, instead of using **10-9** for Repeat Transmission, the user would state **Say Again**.

The CAD system and the mobile software will be updated to change the current call types from 10 codes to plain English; until that project is complete, the system will still accept the 10 codes.