


Ocean City Fire Department
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 23-002

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Page | 1

TO	ALL OCFD Personnel
FROM	Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers, Jr 
SUBJECT	Communication Protocol with Maryland State Police (MSP) Aviation Command Helicopters- Trooper Channel

The purpose of this general order is to establish a standard practice for communication with Maryland State Police (MSP) Aviation Command Helicopters when they are approaching Ocean City for medivac, water rescues, or any other flight mission. This protocol will ensure efficient and effective coordination between the Ocean City Fire Department (OCFD) and Maryland State Police (MSP) helicopters during emergency situations.

MSP Helicopter Communication

Upon approaching Ocean City, MSP helicopters shall initiate communication with Ocean City Communications via the 'OC TROOPER' Channel (7) Ocean City Communications shall promptly acknowledge the helicopter's communication and provide necessary information. Ocean City Communications shall inform the MSP helicopter of the paramedic unit number that is requesting the helicopter's assistance and the landing zone. Ocean City Communications shall confirm who will have landing zone command during the operation.

Paramedic Unit Communication

The paramedic unit requesting the MSP helicopter's assistance shall switch to the 'OC TROOPER' Channel (7) to establish communication with the helicopter. The paramedic unit shall provide patient information and relay any relevant updates to the MSP helicopter through the 'OC TROOPER' Channel (7)

Landing Zone Command Communication

The incident commander responsible for the landing zone shall switch to the 'OC TROOPER' Channel (7) to communicate with the MSP helicopter. The incident commander shall confirm that the landing zone is safe and secured for the helicopter's landing. The incident commander shall maintain regular communication with the MSP helicopter to coordinate any necessary landing zone adjustments or updates.

Compliance and Training

All members of the Ocean City Fire Department shall comply with this communication protocol when interacting with Maryland State Police Aviation Command Helicopters during emergency operations. OCFD personnel shall receive appropriate training on this protocol and stay updated with any revisions or amendments to ensure adherence.