

20-05 - The Use of Non-Standardized Terms in Radio Communications

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

NEWSLETTER

Field Operations Support Services



THE USE OF NON-STANDARDIZED TERMS

IN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of this newsletter is to address concerns regarding non-standardized terms while communicating over the radio. The problem with using non-standardized terms becomes apparent when they are used on the radio during mutual aid events between our own stations and outside agencies.

An example is the use of the acronym "DP" for disturbing party. This has caused confusion when an event from our agency travels into another jurisdiction. Aero Bureau is forced to use air time to explain to the mutual aid agency the definition of "DP." The term "suspect" is a universally recognized term and should be utilized for radio communications to avoid causing confusion.

The use of plain language when dealing with outside agencies is an additional step to improve communications during mutual aid responses. In addition, the use of plain language is a requirement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Incident Command System (ICS) during disaster responses.

Personnel should immediately refrain from using non-standardized terms during disaster responses or mutual aid events/joint operations involving Aero Bureau, and/or other agencies. This practice should be utilized for all patrol events as a way to develop "muscle memory," so as to develop the habit of seamless clear and concise communication during times of stress.

If you have any questions, please call or email Field Operations Support Services at [REDACTED TEXT]
