

Plain Language State of Ohio Standards, Protocols, Procedures

I. Purpose/Objectives

Based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements, agencies shall adopt, practice, and use common language for all situations requiring mutual aid.

II. Operational Context

Plain language - All Communications shall be in plain language.

- Radio codes, acronyms and abbreviations are to be avoided as they may cause confusion between agencies. Additionally, it should be understood that plain words such as “help”, “assistance”, “repeat” and “back-up” may have different operational meanings to different agencies. The word “Help” should not be used alone unless in the context of a life-threatening situation. Requests for assistance or backup should clarify the reason for the request.
- When utilizing your unit number for identification it should be prefaced with your agency name.

III. Recommended Protocol/Standard

Communications between Ohio Public Safety Agencies and other responding on-scene agencies (Federal, State, regional, etc.) shall use plain language communications.

Date Approved:

Revised Date: