

# Public Safety Communications Common Incident Types for Data Exchange

---

**APCO ANS 2.103.1-2012**

[www.apcointl.org](http://www.apcointl.org)



APCO ANS 2.103.1-2012

Standard written by The APCO International Data Transfer Committee

**Abstract:** This standard provides a standardized list of Incident codes that can be used by emergency communications and public safety stakeholders when sharing incident related information.

**Keywords:** PSAP, Incident, type code, emergency communications.

## Contents

Foreword*	3
Acknowledgements*	5
Acronyms and Abbreviations*	7
Chapter 1 Introduction	8
1.1 Scope	8
1.2 Purpose	8
1.3 Definitions	9
Chapter 2 Incident Code Mapping Spreadsheet	9
2.1 Incident Code Matrix Format	9
2.2 Incident Code Matrix	10

## **Foreword\***

APCO International is the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals. It serves the needs of public safety communications practitioners worldwide - and the welfare of the general public as a whole - by providing complete expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach.

## **The 2011 - 2012 APCO International Board of Directors:**

**Gregory T. Riddle, RPL**, President

**Terry Hall**, First Vice President

**Georggina Smith**, Second Vice President

**William Carrow**, Immediate Past President

**Derek Poarch**, Ex-Officio

APCO International standards are developed by APCO committees, projects, task forces, work-groups and collaborative efforts with other organizations coordinated through the APCO International Standards Development Committee (SDC). Members of the committees are not necessarily members of APCO. Members of the SDC are not required to be APCO members. All members of APCO's committees, projects, and task forces are subject matter experts who volunteer and are not compensated by APCO. APCO standards activities are supported by the Comm. Center & 9-1-1 Services Department of APCO International.

For more information regarding APCO International and APCO standards please visit:

[www.apcostandards.org](http://www.apcostandards.org).

APCO American National Standards (ANS) are voluntary consensus standards. Use of any APCO standard is voluntary. This standard does not imply that there are no other minimum qualifications related to public safety communications training officers. All standards are subject to change. APCO ANS are required to be reviewed no later than every five years. The designation of an APCO standard should be reviewed to ensure you have the latest edition of an APCO standard, for example:

APCO ANS 3.101.1-2007 = 1 – Operations, 2 – Technical, 3 – Training

APCO ANS 3.101.1-2007 = Unique number identifying the standard

APCO ANS 3.101.1-2007 = The edition of the standard, which will increase after each revision

APCO ANS 3.101.1-2007 = The year the standard was approved and published, which may change after each revision.

The latest edition of an APCO standard cancels and replaces older versions of the APCO standard. Comments regarding APCO standards are accepted any time and can be submitted to [standards@apcointl.org](mailto:standards@apcointl.org). If the comment includes a recommended change, it is requested that the change be accompanied by supporting material. If you have a question regarding any portion of the standard, including interpretation, APCO will respond to your request following its policies and procedures. ANSI does not interpret APCO standards; they will forward the request to APCO.

APCO International adheres to ANSI's Patent Policy. Neither APCO nor ANSI is responsible for identifying patents for which a license may be required by an American National Standard or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of any patents brought to their attention.

No position is taken with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights within this standard. APCO is the sole entity that may authorize the use of trademarks, certification marks, or other designations to indicate compliance with this standard.

Permission must be obtained to reproduce any portion of this standard and can be obtained by contacting APCO International's Comm Center & 9-1-1 Services Department. Requests for information, interpretations, and/or comments on any APCO standards should be submitted in writing addressed to:

APCO SDC Secretary, Comm Center & 9-1-1 Services

APCO International

351N. Williamson Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114 USA

[standards@apcointl.org](mailto:standards@apcointl.org)

## Acknowledgements\*

Special recognition to the committee members that provided the pertinent research needed to successfully create this candidate standard. At the time this version was written, the Data Transfer Committee (DTC) included the following membership:

### **Richard Boettcher, DTC Group Leader**

**Peggy Fouts, ENP, DTC Chair**  
Grays Harbor E9-1-1

**Karen Allen**  
Tempe Police Department

**Cathy McCormick**  
OnStar

**Jayne Nantkes**  
Akimeka LLC

**Cindy Sluys**  
Bellingham Fire Department

**Henry Unger**  
HiTech

**Kathy McMahon, Staff Liaison**  
APCO International

**Stephen Wisely, Director**  
APCO International Comm Center & 9-1-1 Services

**Christopher Terry**  
Lincoln County E9-1-1

**Bill Hobgood**  
City of Richmond

**Gary Wallace**  
Agero

**Pam Provost**  
Kachemak Consulting

**Rick Thomas**  
Apex Police Department

**APCO Standards Development Committee (SDC)**

**Carol Adams, RPL, Chair**  
Stafford County Sheriff's Office, Virginia

**Gordon Vanauken, Vice Chair**  
L Robert Kimball & Associates, Pennsylvania

**Dr. Daniel Devasirvatham**  
Science Applications International Corp (SAIC), California

**Debbie Gailbreath, RPL**  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Florida

**Chris Fischer**  
NORCOM, WA

**Frank Kiernan**  
Meriden Emergency Communications, Connecticut

**Daniel Morelos**  
Tucson Airport Authority, Arizona

**Lex Rutter**  
Geo-Comm Inc, Idaho

**Bradford S. Smith**  
American Medical Response, Massachusetts

**Sherry Taylor**  
Indianapolis Fire Department Communications Division, Indiana

**Matthew Stillwell, RPL**  
City of Edmond, Oklahoma

**Crystal McDuffie, RPL, Secretary**  
APCO International, Florida

*\*Acknowledgements are informative only and not part of the ANS*

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations\***

For the purposes of this ANS, the following definitions of acronyms apply:

<b>ANS</b>	American National Standard
<b>ANSI</b>	American National Standard Institute
<b>APCO</b>	Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials
<b>CAD</b>	Computer Aided Dispatch
<b>CPE</b>	Customer Premise Equipment
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>PSAP</b>	Public Safety Answering Point

*\*Acronyms and Abbreviations are informative only and not part of the ANS*



## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

Incident type codes are used by PSAPs and public safety to classify events (incidents) that they are handling. These codes typically involve the use of a combination of alphanumeric characters that are only meaningful to a specific agency or region. This standard provides a list of Common Incident Type Codes for use by PSAPs and public safety when sharing incident information with disparate agencies and authorized stakeholders.

### 1.2 Purpose

The ability to efficiently share incident information between disparate PSAPs and other authorized agencies is a critical component of public safety interoperability. An agency that is receiving information about an active incident must have some level of incident classification provided so that the type of situation being shared is understood. A standardized list of Incident Type Codes will therefore be necessary to facilitate effective incident exchange between PSAP's and other authorized agencies<sup>1</sup>.

Creating a standardized incident type code list does NOT mean that an agency must change the codes they use internally. The intent is to have each agency map their internal codes to the standardized list. The PSAP system Administrator will handle this code mapping process in the background within whatever call handling or incident creation system is most appropriate for their operation. No change in the agency's internal process for incident entry will be necessary.

When incidents are shared externally, the standardized codes will accompany an agency's internal code. If the agency receiving the incident is not familiar with the internal code, the standardized code will provide them with a general sense of the situation that must be handled.

The following is an example of how the Common Incident Type code can be utilized:

- PSAP A receives a 9-1-1 call reporting a vehicle accident with unknown status of injury
- PSAP A's CAD system assigns an agency specific incident code of **Sig80-U**
- PSAP A's CAD system maps **Sig80-U** to the applicable standardized code of: **MVAUNK** (common code for motor vehicle accident unknown injury)
- PSAP A sends the incident to PSAP B
- PSAP B receives the following: **Common Incident Type Code - MVAUNK**
- PSAP A Internal Type Code - **Sig80-U**
- PSAP A incident notes – blue pickup truck in the median unknown injuries

---

<sup>1</sup> May include entities such as Emergency Operations Centers, Fusion Centers, Federal agencies or Transportation agencies  
APCO ANS 2.103.1-2012: Public Safety Communications Common Incident Types for Data Exchange

In the above example, PSAP B has the ability to know that the “general” type of call they are receiving is a vehicle accident where the status of injury is unknown. Without the standardized incident type code, PSAP B would be challenged to understand what ‘Sig80-U’ refers to.

It is also important to consider how Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Fusion Centers and other authorized agencies monitoring situational awareness/common operating pictures would make use of the standardized codes. PSAP internal codes may be difficult for emergency managers at a regional EOC to discern. During large scale incidents for example, it would be challenging if every “headache” call or every “larceny investigation” were to appear separately on the EOC mapping system using a variety of different incident type codes. In these cases, standardized codes will provide a way for incidents to be classified more efficiently before they display.

To define the core competencies and minimum training requirements of the individual who is generally tasked with providing leadership and guidance to employees. The purpose of this standard is to provide a consistent foundation for the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to fulfill this critical function. This standard recognizes the need to supplement the training and core competencies identified within this standard with Agency specific information.

### 1.3 Definitions

Definitions of terms used throughout this document.

**1.3.1. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)** - Software to assist in initiating calls for service, dispatching, and maintaining the status of responding resources in the field.

**1.3.2. Incident** – Real world event such as a motor vehicle accident, structure fire or illness. Incidents may be declared by a PSAP or by a unit reporting from the field.

**1.3.3. Incident Type Code** – An acronym or other abbreviated combination of alphanumeric characters used to describe the nature of the real world event that is being reported. Incident type codes typically differ between disparate PSAPs and public safety agencies.

**1.3.4. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP):** A facility equipped and staffed to receive emergency and non-emergency calls requesting public safety services via telephone and other communication devices. The FCC further defines a primary PSAP as a facility to which 9-1-1 calls are routed directly from the 9-1-1 Control Office. A secondary PSAP is defined as a facility to which 9-1-1 calls are transferred from a primary PSAP.

## Chapter 2 Incident Code Mapping Spreadsheet

### 2.1 Incident Code Matrix Format

The Incident Code mapping spreadsheet is a Microsoft Excel® file that lists the codes to be used when sharing incident information between disparate agencies. Additional notes and examples are provided for clarification.

## 2.2 Incident Code Matrix

The following table contains the list of recommended standardized incidents codes to be used by agencies when sharing incident information:

INC CODE	INCIDENT DESCRIPTOR	Additional Notes/examples
911H	911 HANG UP	911 hang-ups
911OPN	911 OPEN LINE	911 open line
ASSIST	ASSIST	Assist to other agency or request for manpower
ABDOM	ABDOMINAL	Abdominal pain or problems
ABDUCTF	ABDUCTION FAMILY	Abduction/kidnapping by family member
ABDUCTNF	ABDUCTION NON-FAMILY	Abduction/kidnapping by non-family member
ABUSE	ABUSE	Child or Elder
ACCIND	INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT	Includes entrapment in major machinery, industrial disasters
ADMIN	ADMINISTRATIVE	Includes follow-ups, DNA collection, citizen complaints, law escorts, request extra patrol
AIR	AIRCRAFT	Aircraft related incidents including reported hijacking
ALIEN	IMMIGRATION	Immigration violation, illegal aliens
ALLERGIC	ALLERGIC	Allergic reaction, insect stings
ALRBA	BURGLAR ALARM- Audible	Includes audible Intrusion alarms
ALRBOX	BOX ALARM	Pull box alarm for police, fire or EMS
ALRBS	BURGLAR ALARM - Silent	Includes silent intrusion alarms
ALRCO	FIRE ALARM - CO	Carbon Monoxide
ALRCO2	FIRE ALARM - CO2	Carbon Dioxide
ALRDEFIB	DEFIBRILLATOR ALARM	Automated Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD)

		alarm or event
ALRF	FIRE ALARM	Generic fire alarm
ALRGAS	FIRE ALARM - GAS	
ALRHEAT	FIRE ALARM - HEAT	
ALRKPAD	FIRE ALARM - KEYPAD	
ALRMED	MEDICAL ALARM	
ALRNGAS	FIRE ALARM - NAT GAS	Natural Gas
ALRPANA	PANIC ALARM AUDIBLE	Includes audible duress alarm
ALRPANS	PANIC ALARM SILENT	Includes silent duress alarm
ALRPROP	FIRE ALARM - PROPANE	
ALRPULL	FIRE ALARM - PULL STATION	
ALRROBA	ROBBERY ALARM AUDIBLE	Includes hold up alarms
ALRROBS	ROBBERY ALARM SILENT	Includes hold up alarms
ALRU	ALARM UNK	Audible alarm unknown type
ALRVEH	VEHICLE ALARM	
ALRWTR	FIRE ALARM - WATER FLOW	includes sprinkler alarms
ALS	ALS	Advanced Life Support
ANIMAL	ANIMAL	Animal complaints including animal rescue,
ASSAULT	ASSAULT	With or without injury
ATL	ATL	Attempt to Locate, BOLO
BACK	BACK PAIN	Non traumatic
BARICADE	BARRICADED	Barricaded person, gunman etc
BIO	BIOLOGICAL	Biological threat

BITE	ANIMAL BITE	Animal bites or attack by an animal
BLDCLPSE	BUILDING COLLAPSE	Collapsed building includes technical rescue incidents
BLEEDING	BLEEDING	Includes rectal, vaginal, non traumatic
BLS	BLS	Basic Life Support incident
BOMB	BOMB	Bomb threat or investigation
BRGCLPSE	BRIDGE COLLAPSE	
BURGLARY	BURGLARY	Includes breaking and entering incidents
BURN	BURNS	
CARDIAC	CARDIAC	Cardiac related event, heart attack, chest pain
CARJACK	CARJACK	
CHEMICAL	CHEMICAL	Includes chemical and environmental incidents
CHESPAIN	CHEST PAIN	Chest pain non cardiac
CHOKER	CHOKING	
CITASST	CITIZEN ASSIST	Public assistance, citizen standby, public service
CIVDIS	CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE	Riot, sit-in, protests, organized actions
CIVIL	CIVIL	Civil matters, codes enforcement issues
CNTRFT	COUNTERFEIT MONEY	
CRIMPS	IMPERSONATION	Criminal impersonation of officer or public official
CRIMTRAF	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC	Driving with suspended license, no valid operator's license
CURFEW	CURFEW VIOLATION	
DEATH	DEATH	Obvious death, found body
DEATHNTF	DEATH NOTIFICATION	
DIABETIC	DIABETIC	
DISORD	DISORDERLY	Disorderly conduct or disturbance

DISVEH	DISABLED VEHICLE	
DROWN	DROWNING	
DRUGPAR	DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	Possession of drug paraphernalia
DRUGS	DRUGS	
DUI	DUI	Driving while intoxicated, under the influence
DVA	DOMESTIC VIOLENT	Domestic dispute with violence, family fight, assault
DVNA	DOMESTIC NON-VIOLENT	Domestic dispute non-violent, verbal
EDP	EMOTION DIST PERSON	EDP, emotional disturbance, abnormal behavior
ELEC	ELECTROCUTION	Includes struck by lightning
ELECHZD	ELECTRICAL HAZARD	Includes all electrical problems
ELUDING	ELUDING	Eluding law enforcement
ENTRAP	ENTRAPMENT	Includes accidental entrapments, inaccessible incidents, stuck elevator
ESCAPE	ESCAPE	Escaped prisoner
EXPLOS	EXPLOSION	
EXPOSURE	EXPOSURE	Heat or cold exposure
EXTORT	EXTORT	Includes blackmail
EYE	EYE	Eye problems or injury
FAIRC	FIRE AIRCRAFT	
FALL	FALL	Non traumatic fall
FAPT	FIRE APARTMENT	Multi-family dwelling, apartment building
FARSON	FIRE ARSON	
FBRUSH	FIRE BRUSH	Includes tress, brush grass controlled burns with no structural exposure, outdoor fires
FELEC	FIRE ELECTRICAL	Includes arcing wires, shorted electrical equipment, light

		ballast, transformers.
FFUEL	FIRE FUEL FACILITY	Includes gas stations, fuel refinery
FIGHT	FIGHT	Includes verbal and physical disputes
FIREWRKS	FIREWORKS	Illegal use of fireworks
FMARINE	FIRE MARINE	Includes marine vessels & boats on waterways (for boats on land use FIRE VEHICLE)
FORCENTR	INACCESSIBLE INCIDENT	Includes breach, forcible entry required for structure, residential lock outs
FOTHER	FIRE OTHER	Includes other types not listed
FRAUD	FRAUD	Includes forgery, fraud, bad checks, identity theft
FREPORT	FIRE REPORT	Response to take fire report only no active fire, incident not in progress
FSMOKE	FIRE SMOKE	Includes fire investigations, smoke odors no flames seen
FSTRU	FIRE STRUCTURE	Includes sheds, attached garages, house fires
FTRAILER	FIRE TRAILER	Single wide mobile home fires-double wide should use FIRE STRUCTURE
FTRAIN	FIRE TRAIN	Any type of railway fire, locomotive, rail car, passenger car etc
FTRASH	FIRE TRASH	Refuse fires, garbage cans, dumpsters
FTRUCK	FIRE TRUCK	Includes large vehicles such as RV, tractor trailers, dump trucks, buses
FUNK	FIRE UNKNOWN	
FVEH	FIRE VEHICLE	Includes small or medium size vehicles, passenger cars, SUV, vans, pick-up trucks
GASLEAK	GAS LEAK	Includes natural gas, liquid fuel or propane leaks
HARR	HARASSMENT	Includes intimidation
HAZMAT	HAZMAT	Hazardous materials incident can include fuel spill,

		chemical biological radiological or nuclear (CBRN)
HEADACHE	HEADACHE	
HEMRG	HEMORRHAGE	Severe bleeding, lacerations
HOMICIDE	HOMICIDE	Includes murder, criminally negligent homicide, manslaughter
HOSTAGE	HOSTAGE	
INDECENT	INDECENT	Includes indecent exposure, indecent liberties
INFO	INFO	Informational calls
INTERNET	INTERNET CRIMES	Obscene material, pornography, cyber bullying
INTOX	INTOXICATED	Intoxicated person, drunk & disorderly
INVEST	INVESTIGATION	
LARCENY	LARCENY	Includes larceny attempt, theft, pick-pocketing
LIQUOR	LIQUOR VIOLATION	Includes selling to minors, underage drinking, over service
MAJORINC	MAJOR INCIDENT	Includes large scale weather related event, weapons of mass destruction event - typically used as a code declared by incident command
MAYDAY	MAYDAY	Immediate assistance request, emergency back-up request
MCI	MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT	MCI - typically used as a code declared by incident command
MISBOATR	MISSING BOATER	Missing person(s) last seen on boat out on a waterway
MISCON	MISCONDUCT	Includes conspiracy, falsifying information, plotting, other misconduct
MVA	MVA	Motor vehicle accident no injury can be received as automated crash notification
MVAHR	HIT & RUN	Vehicle accident hit & run
MVAINJY	MVA INJY	Motor Vehicle accident with injury can be received as automated crash notification, includes car pedestrian, ATV



		accidents
MVAUNK	MVA UNK	Motor vehicle accident unknown injury can be received as automated crash notification crash notification
NEGLECT	NEGLECT	
NOISE	NOISE	Loud noise or music
OD	OD	Overdose accidental, poisoning, accidental ingestion
ODOR	ODOR	Odor investigation any type
OPEN	UNSECURE-BLDG	Includes Open door, open window
ORDERV	ORDER VIOLATION	Domestic violence writ violation, order of protection, custody disputes
PANDEMIC	PANDEMIC	Pandemic flu or illness outbreak, epidemic
PARKING	PARKING	Parking problems/complaints, handicap parking violation
PERFND	FOUND PERSON	Adults & children
PERMISS	MISSING PERSON	
PERSUSP	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	Includes prowler, peeping tom
PERUNCON	UNCONSCIOUS	Unconscious person Includes fainting and near fainting
PERWANT	WANTED PERSON	Arrest warrant, fugitive information
PHANDLE	PANHANDLING	
PREG	PREGNANCY	Pregnancy problems, childbirth, miscarriage
PROPFND	FOUND PROPERTY	Includes abandoned bicycles, found cell phones, purses
PROPLOST	LOST PROPERTY	
PROPSTLN	STOLEN PROPERTY	Includes retention of, transferring or receiving stolen property
PUBWKS	PUBLIC WORKS / UTILITIES	Public works, utility company requests, transportation infrastructure

PURSUIT	PURSUIT	Includes vehicle or foot pursuits
RADIAT	RADIATION INCIDENT	Includes nuclear incidents
RECKDRV	RECKLESS DRIVER	Careless driving and other driving offenses
REPO	REPO	Vehicle repossession
RESCUE	RESCUE	Includes lock-ins, high angle rescue
RESIST	RESISTING ARREST	
RESP	RESPIRATORY	Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, respiratory issue
RESPARR	RESPIRATORY ARREST	
ROBBERY	ROBBERY	Includes strong arm and attempted robbery excludes car jacking
RUNAWAY	RUNAWAY	Includes thrown away children
SAR	SEARCH AND RESCUE	
SEIZURE	SEIZURE	Includes convulsions
SEXOFFNS	SEX OFFENSE	Sexual offenses, assaults, rapes, sex abuse, molestation, incest
SHOOT	SHOOTING	
SHOPLIFT	SHOPLIFTING	
SICK	SICK	Sick person non specific, general illness, flu
SMOKING	SMOKING	Smoking violation
STABBING	STABBING	
STDBY	AGENCY STANDBY	Police, Fire or EMS
STROKE	STROKE	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident (CVA)
SUBJSTP	SUBJECT STOP	
SUICIDE	SUICIDE	
SUICTHRT	SUICIDE THREATS	Attempt or threatening suicide

SUSP	SUSPICIOUS	Suspicious incident, circumstances, unknown problems
TERROR	TERRORIST ACTIVITY	
THAZ	TRAFFIC HAZARD	Includes debris in roadway, black ice,
THREATS	THREATS	
TOW	TOW	
TRAIN	TRAIN	Incidents other than fires or derailments related to trains
TRAINDRL	TRAIN DERAIL	
TRANSFER	TRANSFER	Inter-facility transfer, palliative care
TRAUMA	TRAUMA	Traumatic Injury including head injury
TRAUMAP	PENETRATING TRAUMA	Other than shooting or stabbing
TRESPASS	TRESPASS	
TROUBLE	TROUBLE	Unknown type trouble
TRUANT	TRUANT	
TSTOP	TRAFFIC STOP	
VANDAL	VANDALISM	Vehicle tampering, graffiti, criminal mischief
VEHABND	ABANDONED VEH	
VEHASST	MOTORIST ASSIST	Assist to motorist includes vehicle lock outs
VEHLOCK	VEHICLE LOCK OUT	
VEHREC	RECOVERED VEHICLE	Recovered stolen vehicle
VEHSTLN	STOLEN VEHICLE	Includes Lo-Jack alerts
VEHSUSP	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	
VICE	VICE	Prostitution, gambling, betting, wagering, embezzlement
WARRANT	SEARCH WARRANT	
WATER	WATER RESCUE	All water incidents, diving & scuba accidents, boat/jet ski

		accident, water evacuations
WEAPON	WEAPON VIOLATION	Brandishing a weapon, CCW, illegal discharge, displaying, drive by
WELFARE	WELFARE CHECK	man down check, welfare check
WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS	Illegal hunting, game violations, fisheries
WIRES	WIRES DOWN	
XTRACATE	EXTRICATION	Confined space rescue, vehicle extrication

End of ANS