



Public Safety Communications Common Status Codes for Data Exchange

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FOREWORD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of public safety communications professionals across the nation, the 9-1-1 Emerging Technologies Committee has diligently worked to research, review and write a standard identifying Common Status Codes in Emergency Communications. Status codes are used in all public safety disciplines to track public safety unit activity in a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, throughout the course of a work shift.

As agencies strive to achieve public safety data interoperability among disparate CAD systems it was recognized that a common set of Status Codes was needed. This standard identifies a method to allow multiple agencies to share public safety unit status updates among disparate CAD systems while continuing to use their agency specific Status Codes mapped to the Common Status Codes. Each agency is responsible for identifying how to map or translate their agency specific Status Codes to the Common Status codes to ensure a clear understanding of the data that is being passed.

This standard also allows a translation mechanism in situations such as a multi-agency Fusion Center or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) deployment to allow those in charge of an incident or event to easily follow what is occurring throughout the incident without the need of a decoder ring to decipher each agencies individual Status Codes. Governance is outside the scope of this document, but it is recommended that specific agreements are researched, discussed in detail and in place, prior to CAD data sharing.

The original 9-1-1 Emerging Technologies Committee was made up of a group of working public safety, communications professionals from various size agencies and backgrounds, compiled, reviewed and vetted the information for this standard. Many hours were volunteered by numerous subject matter experts to develop this standard. It is important to recognize the time and effort APCO members have dedicated to updating this important standard.

Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

Status codes are used by Emergency Communication Centers (ECCs) and public safety to document the status of an officer, firefighter and/or EMS unit during an event (incidents). These codes typically involve the use of numeric, alpha or alphanumeric characters that are only meaningful to a specific agency or region. This standard provides a list of Common Status Codes for use by ECCs and public safety when sharing incident information with disparate agencies and authorized stakeholders.

1.1 Purpose

The ability to efficiently share incident information and the outcome between disparate ECCs and other authorized agencies is a critical component of public safety interoperability. Each active unit must provide their status throughout their shift so that ECCs and other units are aware of their activity. A list of Common Status Codes will therefore be necessary to facilitate effective unit activity exchange between ECCs and other authorized agencies.

Creating a common status code 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 ECC System Administrator will handle this code mapping, or translation process in the background within whatever call handling system is most appropriate for their operation. No change in the agency's internal process for unit status tracking will be necessary.

When incidents are shared externally, the standardized status codes will accompany an agency's internal code. If the agency receiving the unit status code is not familiar with the internal code, the standardized code will provide them with a general sense of how the situation was handled. The following is an example of how the Common Status code can be utilized:

- A Sergeant from ECC A arrives on scene of a hostage situation being handled by ECC A and ECC B and declares himself Incident Commander.
 - The ECC A dispatcher assigns the Sergeant a status of "IC" to indicate he has taken the role of Incident Commander at the scene (ex: P4 IC 400 W Baseline Rd).
- ECC A's CAD system maps or translates "IC" to the applicable standardized status code of:
EstablishedCommand
- ECC A sends the status code to ECC B
- ECC B receives the following: *P4 EstablishedCommand 400 W Baseline Rd*

In the above example, ECC B has the ability to know what the status of the Sergeant is for the incident they are working with ECC A. Without the common status code, ECC B may not understand what "IC" 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 status codes. An ECC's internal status 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 involved agency's status codes were used. In these cases, standardized codes will provide a way for unit status to be tracked more efficiently.

Chapter Two

Status Code Mapping Spreadsheet

SCOPE

This chapter includes a list of recommended standardized status codes to be used by agencies when sharing information.

2.1 Status Code Matrix Format

The Status Code mapping spreadsheet is a Microsoft Excel® file that lists the codes to be used when sharing incident information between disparate agencies.

2.2 Status Code Matrix

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

Code / Mnemonic	Description	Extended Description
AcknowledgedTransmission	Acknowledge Transmission	Emergency unit acknowledged receipt of a dispatch / assignment.
AlternateLocation	Alternate location	Emergency unit is at an alternate location or is enroute to, transporting to, arrived at, etc. when used in combination with another unit status.
Arrived	Arrived	Emergency unit arrived at the incident location or at some other location.
Assigned	Assigned	Emergency unit has been assigned to an incident or to some other event.
AssignmentCancelled	Cancelled	Emergency unit's assignment to an activity has been cancelled. This is an observation useful for tracking unit history and incident progress.
Available	Available	Emergency unit is available to be assigned to an incident.
AvailableAtScene	At Scene Available	Emergency unit is assigned to an incident and on scene, but available to be dispatched to another incident.
AvailableByPhone	Unit Available by Phone	Emergency unit available by phone only.
AvailableByRadio	Unit Available by Radio	Emergency unit available by radio only. Example: Out of the car and available only by voice communication over radio.

BacktoAssignedArea	Patrolling assigned area	Emergency unit is back to patrolling or covering its assigned area, beat, or district. This is an observation useful for tracking unit history.
Backup	Backing up another unit	Emergency unit is backing up another emergency unit on an incident.
BackUpEnroute	Backup Enroute	Emergency backup unit is enroute. This identifies that this is not the primary unit on scene.
BackupOnScene	Backup On Scene	Emergency backup unit is on scene. This identifies that this is not the primary unit on scene.
Break	On Break	Emergency unit is on a break.
Busy	Busy	Emergency unit is busy and not available.
CheckedIn	Checked In With Dispatcher	Emergency unit checked in with its dispatcher to advise OK. This is an observation useful for tracking unit history and incident progress.
Cleared	Cleared	Emergency unit cleared the incident location or some other location.
DirectedPatrol	Community Policing	Emergency unit is involved in Community Oriented Policing (COP) or Problem Oriented Policing (POP) activities.
Court	Court	Emergency unit is assigned to Court.
CoveringAlternateArea	Covering Alternate Area	Emergency unit is patrolling, is en route to, arrived at, or is covering an alternate area, beat, or station.
Delayed	Delayed	Emergency unit is delayed from arriving at the incident's location or some other location.
Departed	Departed location	Emergency unit has departed a location (e.g., Departed and Court).
Dispatched	Dispatched	Emergency unit has been dispatched to an incident or some other event.
Enroute	Enroute	Emergency unit is enroute to an incident location or some other location.
EquipmentIssues	Equipment Problems	Emergency unit is experiencing equipment issues.
EstablishedCommand	Established Command	Identifies which emergency unit has established command of an incident.
Event	Event	Emergency unit is enroute to, arrived at or at an event, (parade, concert, etc.).

FieldSobrietyTest	Field Sobriety Tests	Emergency unit conducting a field sobriety test. This status identifies that the unit is unavailable and will not be on the radio, as well as a heightened safety alert.
AtHospital	At Hospital	Emergency unit has arrived at, the hospital.
EnrouteToHospital	Enroute to Hospital	Emergency unit is enroute or transporting to the hospital.
InService	In Service	Emergency unit is in service.
InTheArea	In the Area	Emergency unit is in the area of an incident, checking the area, but not on scene. (ex: looking for a suspect that.
Investigation	Investigating	Emergency unit is assigned to investigate an active or closed incident.
AtJail	At Jail	Emergency unit has arrived at the jail/detention facility.
EnrouteToJail	Enroute to Jail	Emergency unit is enroute to or is transporting to the jail/detention facility.
Location	Location	A location other than the incident that is used with enroute, arrived, etc.
Meal	Meal break	Emergency unit is at lunch, dinner, breakfast or some other meal.
Meeting	Meeting	Emergency unit is enroute to, arrived at or involved in a meeting.
MoveUp	Move up	Emergency unit is available from another station, not their home quarters.
OffDuty	Off Duty	Emergency Unit is off duty.
OnDuty	On Duty	Emergency unit is on duty.
OnScene	On Scene	Emergency Unit is located at the scene (location) of the incident.
OutofService	Out of Service	Emergency unit is out of service.
PatientContact	Patient Contact	Emergency responders made contact with a patient involved in the incident. This is an observation useful for tracking unit history and incident progress.
PhoneReport	Phone Report	Unit busy taking a report by phone, not at the location indicated and possibly not available via radio.

Post	Post (location)	Emergency unit is enroute to, arrived at or is at a post.
PrimaryUnit	Change Primary Unit	Indicates the unit that is responsible for handling the incident report at an incident.
ResponderInitiatedEvent	Self---Initiated event	Emergency unit is on a self---initiated event that is not a traffic stop.
RollCall	Roll Call	Emergency unit is enroute to or arrived at Roll Call.
Roster	Roster	Emergency unit has automatically been activated, but is not yet available and has not checked in.
ShiftPending	End of Shift Pending	Emergency unit's end of shift is pending.
Staging	Staging at Location	Emergency unit is at an incident's staging location.
Station	Station	Emergency unit is enroute to, transporting to, arrived at or at its headquarters, station, or substation.
TrafficStop	Traffic Stop	Emergency unit is on scene at a self---initiated traffic stop.
Training	Training	Emergency unit and responders are participating in a training activity.
Transporting	Transporting	Emergency unit is transporting or escorting a person or equipment to a location or destination.
Unmanned	Unmanned	Emergency unit is not adequately staffed.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANS	American National Standards
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APCO	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
ECC	Emergency Communications Center
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IC	Incident Command
NG911	Next Generation 9-1-1
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
SDC	Standards Development Committee

GLOSSARY

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD): Software to assist in initiating calls for service, dispatching, and maintaining the status of responding resources in the field.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC): Also known as public safety answering points (PSAP), ECC is the term that best describes the Next Generation public safety 911 call and dispatch center.

INCIDENT: Real world event such as a motor vehicle accident, structure fire or illness. Incidents may be declared by an ECC or by a unit reporting from the field.

MAPPING: Public Safety agencies identify a list of status codes that are used within their own CAD system. This document allows the agency to assign (map) each of their agency specific status codes to a status code listed in the Status Code Matrix below.

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.

STATUS CODE: An acronym or other abbreviated combination of alphanumeric characters used to describe the status of an emergency unit. Status codes typically differ between disparate ECCs and public safety agencies.

TRANSLATE: When CAD to CAD data sharing occurs, the Common Status code is the conduit that allows each agency to understand the meaning of the other agency specific status codes.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP): A written directive that provides a guideline for carrying out an activity. The guideline may be made mandatory by including terms such as “shall” rather than “should” or “must” rather than “may”.

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