



# Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS Standard Operating Procedure

## DOCUMENT DETAILS

<b>Standard Operating Procedure: 4.3.5</b>	<b>Effective Date: March 1, 2026</b>
<b>Subject: Signal 13</b>	<b>Section: Fire/Rescue operations</b>
<b>Authorized: Deputy Chief Paul Supko</b>	<b>Revision Date: N/A</b>

**Applicability:**             Volunteer                             Career

## I. PURPOSE

To establish a clear, uniform process for Fire & EMS personnel to immediately request emergency law enforcement assistance when confronted with a situation where their safety or the safety of others is in imminent danger and cannot be managed through normal communications.

## II. DEFINITIONS

None

## III. POLICY

- A. A Signal 13 shall be transmitted verbally over the assigned operational radio channel whenever a Fire or EMS provider identifies a situation in which:
  - 1. They feel threatened, endangered, or at immediate risk of harm
  - 2. A scene becomes hostile, violent, or unstable
  - 3. There is an active or imminent threat involving weapons, assault, or disorder
  - 4. The crew must rapidly disengage, shelter in place, or defend themselves
  - 5. Immediate law enforcement response is required, and delay would increase risk
- B. Depress the emergency button on the portable radio.
  - 1. Personnel should be aware that activating the emergency button will emit several loud beeps.
  - 2. Do not activate the emergency button if this will compromise personnel safety.
- C. Upon receipt of a verbal Signal 13, the ECC will immediately dispatch the Signal 13 resources without question, delay, or clarification on the radio.

## IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Transmission
  1. The provider shall announce: “[Unit ID] — Signal 13”,
  2. No additional information is required.
  3. Emergency Communications Center begins Automatic Actions
  
- B. Upon receiving a Signal 13, ECC shall automatically:
  1. Acknowledge the Signal 13
  2. Dispatch the Signal 13 Running Assignment on a separate tac Channel (ex.A7)
  3. Signal 13 Running Assignment:
    - a. Closest available law enforcement unit
    - b. Fire suppression unit
    - c. Medic Unit
    - d. Battalion Chief 101
    - e. EMS Lieutenant
    - f. Command Support Tone
  4. Attempt to make contact with **the** respective Volunteer Company Chief. (Phone or dispatch)
  5. Restrict and redirect other incidents to another talk group.
  6. Do not ask follow-up questions, unless necessary
  
- C. Incident Commander’s Response to a Signal 13 (if IC has been established):
  1. Once a Signal 13 has been declared, all personnel should be directed to maintain radio silence. During this time, all radio transmissions shall be restricted to emergency messages only.
  2. Consider deploying on-scene resources to assist the distressed personnel.
  3. Confirm that the ECC has dispatched law enforcement.

## IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding **Signal 13** or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.