

Needless Radio Filler?

07/31/13 10 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Seen on Twitter:

**Anthony Kelleher** @KentlandChief

24 Jul

Can we start a fire service campaign against the radio transmissions "Be Advised", "At this time", "All Visible Fire"? #NeedlessFiller

Retweeted by FireNews.net

Expand

What would you add?

Blue in COLOR / command is DISSOLVED / COPY DIRECT when they did not copy direct.

JRS - 07/31/13 - 09:48

It wasn't filler, but the phonetic alphabet does elude some folks...

"Raleigh Central on Dispatch one, contact Progress Energy, Iv'e got a Pole number when you're ready" "Go Ahead" "OK, its the number 1, 'Y' as in you 63..."

It went down hill from there...

Sasser ([Email](#)) - 07/31/13 - 11:53

HA! My pet peeve, even on the police side! Add to the list, "if you would", and "reference same".

"Contact complainant reference same."

"No %&#? I was going to contact the complainant reference something completely unrelated until you told me that!"

rfburns - 07/31/13 - 12:38

1st unit arrives and "assumes" command.

"Be advised, at this time....." in the same two seconds!

Yelling... I get it if you have been told you're unreadable or low volume, but if you wear your headset it the truck you'll be able to hear just fine, and so will they. On that note, roll the damn window up! Nobody, and I mean nobody, on the radio needs to hear your Q or powercall or hi-lo. We all ride big red trucks or bama-lances. All this does is cause you to repeat yourself, tying up radio channels.

I get we are an eclectic mix of firefighters, but BOX is a thing UPS delivers, salt goes on fries, and a wagon is something radio flyer makes. If you liked it better the other way, go back.

And finally, not every truck needs to clear a call on dispatch. That's why we have deck boxes. Mark in service on the tac or ops channel, and push 10-8 and go home. If you're the last unit, then clear everything on dispatch.

Mike, this brings some good discussion, but we also need to look at the flip side. Where's the "good" traffic post?

Walsh - 07/31/13 - 13:59

Waiting for some bright spark to use "E as in ewe"

Paul - 07/31/13 - 14:00

@sasser- J George 8... LoL

JRS - 07/31/13 - 14:05

A good one needs to be clear, concise and devoid of all the needless fillers. Obviously things are happening "at this time," or you would've said otherwise. I'm already being advised, you're talking to us. (we should work a numbering system argument into this conversation)
"Engine 1 (Apex/Cary/Holly Springs/Moville/Raleigh/Wake Forest/Now Caryboro, did I miss any?) on the scene, 2 story residential, approx 1500 square feet, dark smoke showing from division 2, A/B corner. We have/Don't have water supply, out attacking"
it's not a good idea to read your SOG over the radio. give what you can until you find out more and get to work!

Another one of my favorite examples of good is "ok." We're not cops. It ain't rocket surgery

Sasser ([Email](#)) - 07/31/13 - 14:31

"numbering system" = Dead Horse...many times over, but what the heck...

DJ - 07/31/13 - 17:44

Looks to me like Walsh needs a history lesson.....Search box alarm on google or look at Raleigh history to find both BOXES and WAGONS. Nothing wrong with tradition. Maybe some need to learn where we came from before we can move forward.

Now go catch a plug if anyone knows what that is we can all use refreshers.

Don't forget your roots, old heads still use these terms because they were proud to be firemen in the era you find them. You don't see many bragging about the super pumper ambulance combo you see around. The new age needs to learn from the past not erase it.

Ben - 07/31/13 - 18:12

Mike, you already know how I feel about this one... <http://elaffhq.com/2011/08/19/radio-traf..>

In reference to one peeve mentioned above, which I have never discussed on the interwebs, but have many times in person...

I have never taken offense to "assuming" command in place of "establishing", though I work with some who do. If you really want to argue semantics, the verb "assume" does not necessarily mean "to take over" from someone else. For example, have you ever heard the phrase, "Assume the position"? Are you supposed to assume "the position" to relieve someone else who is already in "the position"? No, you are assuming the position independently.

Why? Well, I'd rather not know...

P.S. I like boxes and salt, but I'm impartial to wagons...meh, either way. However, if any of those (or other) odd terms is part of your department's history you should use them and teach others about their origins. History and tradition is awesome and it is too easily lost on my generation of short attention spans.

Lt. Lemon ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/31/13 - 19:32

"Awaiting Assignment"

A.C. Rich - 07/31/13 - 22:44

@Walsh as much as I hate hearing it myself, don't bash it until you think about it. The "box" if you want to be technical could be the Map page. In the map books we're provided; pages are broken down into boxes or grids. Back when that's the same concept that was used as now. Salt? who cares if someone gets referred to as being "Salty" most people should take that as a compliment. Salt in firefighting terms is referring to someone who is very knowledgeable in certain aspects. Or has seen quite their fair share of fires; training burns and youtube videos do not make you "salty"....THEY DO NOT AT ALL. So please to my fellow readers if you fall in this category STFU no one cares about your training fires, or how P.G., Detroit, Highland Park, DCFD, FDNY, or Camden do it. Don't try telling others how to do something when you haven't even experienced it yourself. Now Walsh as for "Wagon" I hope you know the true meaning of it. Way back when the wagon was used to transport hose to the scene while the Pumper sat at the water point and pumped the water to the Wagon. I think that's a lot to do with tradition and not wanting to forget the past. Pretty sure Raleigh was the only one's in this region who operated that way and still continue to operate similarly.

And don't tell "US" to go back, people around here love "US" sorry you feel different. I mean look at the powercall for instance, everyone loves the powercall :)

PGtruckie - 07/31/13 - 23:39

"Please" and "Thank ya' ma'am" or "Thank you".....we get it, you're polite. We are here to do a job, just like ECC is. No need to thank them for

giving you patient info.

Mr. Polite - 08/01/13 - 00:44

"I mean look at the powercall for instance, everyone loves the powercall :)"

Yep, loved them when Durham had them...back in the 70s...the original GE Powercalls.

Sirenman - 08/01/13 - 09:02

@Mr.Polite- For one: We know we are here to do a job and so are they. However, some of those dispatchers sound like they could have a little "pick me up" so to speak and if a kind little gesture such as "Thank You" is what they want. Well then I am going to continue to do so. For Two: If you think them while going to the call and getting an update on the patient. When stuff goes to h311 in a hand basket, they are the ones listening to know if you need help. Those dispatchers are the ones that DISPATCH you more units and/or PD/WCSO. So I believe I will continue to be polite.

@PGtruckie- "Ya'll" can stay as long as ya'll want, the way I see it, ya'll are bringing some very good tactics and ideas down here, as well as the Power-call.

Junior - 08/01/13 - 20:56

Raleigh Central Dispatch 1 (as if we have 2 or 3), be advised, if you would advise...little things- annoying as hell but little things. I dont care what you call them- I wish we would call them one thing or the other; as for me, just use plain text and expedite the transmission when conditions deteriorate or something is about to happen that could put someone in a box (do I need to clarify "box"?). Whats most annoying is someone who is afraid to talk on the radio, size it up/paint the picture or give assignments to incoming companies. Say something stupid on the radio they'll talk about you for a week...DONT say something important and they might write a NIOSH report on it.

J.Boggs ([Email](#)) - 08/01/13 - 22:43

^^thank^^ not think.

Junior - 08/01/13 - 22:50

Speaking from this dispatchers perspective, as long as we are cordial and professional to each other and can understand each others traffic, thats all I would ever ask for. Thank yous are appreciated although not required. When crap hits the fan just tell me what you want and I will get it for you. We do make mistakes but Ill never leave someone out there alone.....you are my responsibility and I take that seriously.

dispatcher - 08/01/13 - 23:00

Wake Co does have a Disp 2 & 3, but they don't get used...

JRS - 08/01/13 - 23:09

I will have to agree with @Mr.Polite, and I too will continue to strive to be polite. I will happily call it a wagon when CAD and the departments change their unit designations, and last time I checked (and please, correct me if I am wrong) there are no call boxes still in operation in Wake County. I also have no issue with someone being called "salty". My gripes are with the youtube PGCounty worshipers who watch a couple videos and decide that if they do it there, we should blindly follow. Everyone should strive to be the best they can be, and gain experience and knowledge however possible. But they should also take that experience and knowledge and help to build their own style, not become someone elses. Why don't we all strive to make our department the envy of the youtubers? I understand and respect history.

I don't feel right calling myself a term of respect and endearment for an old-timer or respected member of a long-standing department, and I don't believe they should be so easily tossed around. To me, it's like taking a rank that you haven't earned. But to each his own?

And where did I mislead someone to believe I don't like the sirens? I just don't need them in my ear when what I am really trying to hear what "you", the one who thought it was important to key up and say something.

Now, back on topic: sorry about the rabbit hole @Legeros. Good radio traffic comes from experience and, more importantly, senior or more experienced members TEACHING the inexperienced fire fighter. A great deal of people seem to have the answers to the problems, but very few seem eager or patient enough to educate.

Walsh - 08/02/13 - 08:50

@Walsh, I would beg to differ with you saying that very few seem eager or patient to educate. I am fairly young but have been trained exceptionally well by members within my department beginning when I was a junior and working up. I have rode the seat to multiple calls and

some seem shocked when they realize my age. And as far as sirens, they're loud. If someone is saying something and there is a siren running because it is kinda important to warn people in the roadway, then yeah you're going to hear it but listen for the words its no more difficult than trying to hear someone over the radio with a mask on and all the other noises in the background. And finally, as far as calling people "PGCounty worshipers" I would beg to ask if it is a negative to know people that fight fire there and when they are running 5x the call volume of anywhere in Wake County, they probably have a better understanding of things such as aggressive attacks, hose lays, and what needs to get done. Im not saying that we don't know here in Wake but the old line of sit down, shut up, and listen can sometimes help you learn a significant amount.

William - 08/02/13 - 11:43

Reflecting on both this thread and a second conversation formed over on Facebook by someone else, I've concluded that there might be one truism here: the best communication between responders and dispatchers is the type/style/format that... works best. It's insanely easy to monitor radio traffic across various agencies and jurisdictions. But the rubber meets the road when the mic is in the person's hand. The people using said radios are the people to, um, listen to.

Legeros - 08/02/13 - 11:46

I read an article by Jim Page years ago on the same subject, something about things like "You can go ahead and cancel" vs. "Unit —, cancel"- things like that. He had sort of the same take on things like some folks here...yet years ago.

Everyone has their own 'style' if you will, and having had the uniformity of the army enforced on me for a time, I do value individuality. Sometimes that style is the way you sound, the way you pronounce things, or maybe some of your terminology. I used to listen to an aircraft scanner in a previous life and the pilots and air traffic controllers all had uniqueness, throwing in the occasional "thank you, sir", "have a good day, ma'am", etc. While unnecessary, it does add personality and helps create the bond between the people talking, even if you never actually meet. That individual style is a good thing...kind of like company and unit logos.

And while I am OK with the 'personal touch', if you will, there are those phrases that get to me like nails on a chalk board. Those that know me know what they are...no need to go into that again.

DJ - 08/02/13 - 14:01

Because it's all about "Me" right?

MEMEME - 08/02/13 - 16:35

WE'll be 10-23. If I were a dispatcher, I think I would say, "let me know when you are 10-23". We'll is short for we will, so we'll be 10-23 actually means we will be 10-23 sometime, but not right this red hot minuste.

BE - 08/02/13 - 18:04

Reading this blog is entertaining! I have certainly said it all over the radio in the past 30 years, but what is important is that we are understood when we communicate. As everyone's comments are based upon their individual perception, perspective, experiences, etc.; trying to convince another of the "right way" is impossible! LOL! It's all semantics... "at this time, y'all!"

A.C. Rich - 08/03/13 - 13:58

What happened to Condition blue. Code 1 or Code 2 condition red. hahahaha

John T. - 08/03/13 - 15:27

Saying thank you to the dispatcher not a bad thing. Someone in the blog basically said,"No need to thank the dispatcher when given updated patient information".I will thank one in a heartbeat. We don't get much information while en route to a call. The dispatchers have a lot going on. It is MUCH APPRECIATED when you get update information while en route to a call, so when you do get extra information,I want them to continue to do it. We had a dispatcher give us the size of the building and where the three closest hydrants were to the call. I am sorry, but when they go above and beyond, I will tell them thank you every time. Not every apparatus has an MDT! Second, when we give all the information after arriving on scene E-1 on scene, two story wood framed; etc., we are directed by our command staff to mark on scene that way. Finally, we are also told by our command staff, in conjunction of the ECC, to mark in service from the call, ex, E-1 service on our dispatch channel and push the button. The last unit clears the channel.

chris - 08/04/13 - 01:03

If there has ever been someone I have ever wanted to model myself after as far as speaking on the radio that would be retired Asst. Chief Rusty Styons.

Rescue Ranger - 08/04/13 - 11:31

RR, nothing wrong with a strong, clear voice with good enunciation and an amiable demeanor...

Legeros - 08/04/13 - 16:38

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/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.