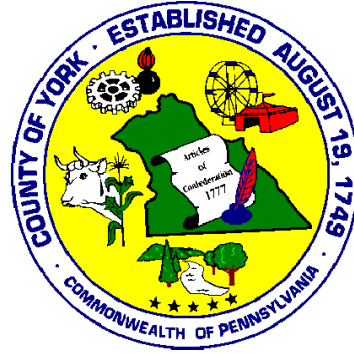**York County Department of Emergency Services**
Communications Division

Policy # 50.4D
Subject: Police Officer in Distress
Issued Date: August 22, 2006
Issued By: William James, Training Supervisor
Revision Date: January 6, 2009
Approved By: Cindy Dietz, 911 Director

Policy:

An officer in distress will transmit Signal 13. This message will be given the highest priority. The following procedure will be followed.

Procedure:

An officer in distress will transmit Signal 13. This message will be given the highest priority. The following procedure will be followed.

1. Upon receipt of a Signal 13 from an Officer, the dispatcher will immediately create an incident and hold the air and move all other traffic to another talk group. Determine the location and, if possible, what the problem is.

2. After doing this, the dispatcher will immediately announce the following on all police talk groups (and Fire if applicable):

> Give an alert tone and announce, "*York to all units, (police department name and unit number) needs assistance at (location)."* If you have any further information, this will also be relayed. Repeat the announcement and say, *"Units responding acknowledge."*

3. Do not tie up the air any longer than necessary.

4. If the incident has Fire and EMS units on the scene the announcement will also be made on the appropriate talk group.

5. Notify the Chief of the Department that has reported the Signal 13 as soon as possible. Also notify the Pennsylvania State Police and your shift supervisor.

6. Emergency Button Activation
    – The field unit will press and hold for 2 ½ seconds
    – Radio will BEEP and will display TX EMER

- The unit will give their location
- Radio Transmits for 10 seconds – hands free
- Emergency condition will be displayed at the console position with audible as well as visual display.
- Other field unit radios on the talk group will display RX EMER

Dispatcher will treat all activations as an emergency until verified:
- Locate the module declaring the emergency
- Select Alarm Reset to turn off the audible signal
- Document the LID of the unit declaring the emergency
- Announce "Unit # Check your Display"
- If no response - it will be handled as an emergency
- Follow Signal 13 procedure as outlined above
- Do not clear the alarm until the situation is resolved

To clear the alarm, select Alarm Clear. This resets the affected radio and clears the alarm from all the consoles.