

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

Rescinded on 7/22/15

NUMBER: 11-05

February 23, 2011

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Richard Bowers



SUBJECT: Portable Radio Use While Engaging in Firefighting Operations

A study conducted by NIST indicated that the firefighter's portable radio offers the best protection during firefighting operations ***if the radio is carried inside the sewn-on breast pocket of the turnout coat.*** Positioning the portable radio in this pocket is also the optimal location for transmitting and receiving radio messages.

Recent enhancements of the MCFRS specifications for the Personal Protective Envelope provide the turnout coat's radio pocket with a higher thermal protection rating, to better protect the portable radio. These enhancements were made to ensure the radio is available to personnel when it is most needed.

When firefighter PPE is worn during all firefighting operations, the portable radio must be carried inside the sewn-on breast pocket of the turnout coat.

Additional information regarding the NIST study is available at:
<http://www.fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire06/PDF/f06015.pdf>.

Questions may be referred to Assistant Chief Frank Rothenhoefer, Communications Officer or Assistant Chief Michael Nelson, Safety Chief.