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Region III EMS Mutual Aid Channel Utilization Policy

Purpose

The Region III EMS Mutual Aid channel is designed to allow direct, inter-operable, radio communications between all ambulance communications centers, Northeast CMED, and the Fire District Control Points in Fire Districts 5, 6, and 15. Future build out will include the NEMLEC/BAPERB control points in Bedford and Hamilton allowing communications between EMS, fire and police control entities.

This system, funded by the Northeast Regional Homeland Security Council (NERAC), operates on a stand-alone repeater and is not dependent on a landline (telco) support. A Motorola console radio and antenna will be installed in each EMS communications center that holds 911 contracts and/or is a member of the Statewide Fire/EMS mobilization plan.

Utilization

The primary utilization of this frequency will be for Northeast CMED to have direct radio communication with each EMS service's communications center as well as to establish radio communications between communication centers. Other primary uses include the deployment of EMS assets such as EMS task force activations, Regional Mass Casualty Support Units, and the MVRTA Ambu-Bus and Evac Bus. This channel may also be used for command and control during major incidents, as well as **non-routine** ambulance service to ambulance service mutual aid requests (mass casualty incidents). It is not intended for day-to-day dispatch functions, ALS requests, backup to existing systems, or on-scene communications.

This system is not intended to replace current fire district and county dispatch channels, procedures, or practices. It does provide the fire control points with the capability to activate EMS assets assigned to task forces during deployments and the flexibility to move EMS resource mobilization and EMS related communications off of the district fire channels to the EMS channel to stream line communications during a major incident or event.

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Rev: 2.0

Approval of Use

All agencies operating on the system must sign a memorandum of agreement with Northeast EMS (NEEMS) except for the three fire district control points for which a reciprocal agreement is already in place. The frequency shall not be programmed into any mobile or portable radio, with the exception of regional communications vehicles and Northeast EMS communications equipment, without prior approval from Northeast EMS.

Monitoring

The Region III EMS Mutual Aid channel is a “guarded channel” and shall be monitored at all times by the EMS communication centers. Utilization of the channel should be low, by design, to eliminate interference and competition with day-to-day operations and communications. Northeast CMED will perform a weekly roll call test of the system with each communications center on the network each Friday at 11:30 hours.

Equipment

The Northeast Homeland Security Council has provided each service that has 911 EMS responsibilities with the installation of a Motorola 450-520 MHz XTL 5000 consolette and antenna for the above stated purpose. As such, the service agrees to monitor this channel at all times. The service may elect, at their cost, to program additional channels into the radio. This is allowable provided that the service receives prior permission from NEEMS, the programmed channels are for emergency and or redundant communications, and that the Region III channel remains as the priority channel.

Examples of permitted use

- Region wide notifications from CMED to EMS Comm centers.
- Ambulance Task Force activations: Fire Control points to EMS Comm Centers
- EMS Asset activations: MCI Trailers, Ambu-bus, Evac Bus
- Non-routine EMS Mutual Aid: MCI’s, large incidents or events. Comm Center to Comm Center
- Interoperable communications with other public safety coordination centers such as the fire district control points, MEMA, and Law Enforcement.