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COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINE NUMBER 13-03

New York State Interoperability Channel Naming: EMS Channels (VHF)

Effective: Apr. 2, 2014
Date issued: Apr. 2, 2014

Valid: Until revoked or superseded
Revision: 1 (Aug. 26, 2015)

SUMMARY:

This document establishes a standard channel naming plan for VHF-High Band channels utilized by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies in New York State.

DESCRIPTION:

The following frequencies have been renamed to create a statewide channel name standard.

Table with 4 columns: Frequency, New Name, Pronunciation, CTCSS. Rows include frequencies like 155.1600 (VSAR16), 155.1750 (NYMED175), 155.2200 (NYMED220), 155.2800 (NYMED280), 155.2950 (NYMED295), 155.4000 (NYMED400), 155.7150 (NYMED715), 155.3400 (VMED28), and 155.3475 (VMED29).

- (1) (VSAR16) Modified Aug-2015, to align naming and CTCSS with the national standard. NYS Federation of Search & Rescue Teams endorsed this change and teams will comply with this change.
(2) National standard channel name as listed in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG v1.5).
(3) Transmit tone of 156.7 Hz. as listed in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG v1.5). Default operations should be carrier-squelch (CSQ) receive. It is not recommended to program a receiver tone.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

It is understood that the transition of new channel naming will take time. To facilitate this change all users should begin utilizing the new channel names and program visual displays in radio equipment with the names when possible. Agencies should notify their users of this channel name update so they become familiar with the new name and how it relates to the current appearance in their radios.

**LICENSED USE:**

**This guideline does NOT supersede the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations. An FCC license or appropriate authorization from a licensee is required for mobile and portable use and an FCC license if required for all base station use.**

***CAUTION:** Some of these frequencies are not for the exclusive use for EMS Communications, as they are licensed by other entities for their own operational purposes. Transient users of the frequencies operating in other areas of the state (during mutual-aid conditions) should avoid causing interference with other licensed users.*

**PERMITTED USES:**

- EMS Operations (Tactical, Ambulance to Ambulance, Ambulance to Hospital Communications)

**PROHIBITED USES:**

- Non-EMS, non-public safety related activities.

**TECHNICAL PARAMETERS:**

- Only analog, narrowband transmissions are permitted.
- The use of a radio “time out timer” is mandatory. This setting shall not exceed 120 seconds (2 minutes) each. <sup>4</sup>

**UNIT IDENTIFICATION:**

- Users shall identify their agency when initiating transmissions on these channels (e.g. “Acme EMS Unit 123 to Any town Hospital”).
- Users shall use plain language when operating on these frequencies. The use of “10-codes” or other codes is prohibited. Medical related terminology, abbreviations and codes are permitted.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Since the statewide EMS communications plan was established in the 1970s, the list of available channels has changed and they have become known by many different names, leading to confusion in the end user community. As part of an overall review of interoperable channels, a working group of the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board recommended these standardized names.

**MISUSE OF CHANNEL:**

Concerns regarding misuse of these channels should be reported to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications. (Email: [DHSES.OIEC@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:DHSES.OIEC@dhses.ny.gov) Phone: 518-322-4911)

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(4) Time was reduced from 3-minutes, that was specified in the original guideline.