



April 16, 2014

# ***NOTICE***

## **CHANGE TO THE NAMES OF COMMON EMS RADIO CHANNELS**

**Effective immediately, the names of various common EMS radio channels in the VHF High-Band have been changed.**

***Affected Frequencies: 155.160, 155.175, 155.220, 155.280, 155.295, 155.400, 155.715 MHz.***

### **HISTORY:**

For the past five decades, there have been various common EMS radio channels in use throughout the state, ranging from shared single-agency operational channels, to county or region wide interoperability use. As regional mutual-aid and state wide mobilization of responders became more prevalent, the lack of standardized channel names often lead to confusion when responders, unfamiliar with other regional radio protocols, policies and local channel names were unable to identify channels, establish and maintain communications.

### **PURPOSE:**

To eliminate the inconsistent channel names and establish standardized channel names of the common statewide EMS radio channels.

### **RATIONALE:**

When the National Interoperability Channels were established, a standard naming nomenclature was developed that established common channel names, applicable everywhere in the country. In conjunction with that plan, it was recommended that the states establish a similar naming protocol for common statewide mutual-aid channels. New York State recognized this need and formed a Channel Naming and Usage Working Group, comprised of representatives from various county and state entities, to study the topic. This working group presented its findings and recommendations to the Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board (SIECB) for review, at which time they endorsed the findings and recommended the adoption of the guidelines for statewide implementation

### **USAGE:**

- For EMS inter-agency/interoperable communications of a tactical or transient nature
- For use in mutual-aid situations only when it does not interfere with other licensed users

**AFFECTED FREQUENCIES/CHANNELS:**

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>New Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>CTCSS</i>
155.1600	SAR-160	Sarr-One-Six-Zero	131.8 Hz. <sup>1</sup>
155.1750	NYMED175	Nye-Med-One-Seven-Five	
155.2200	NYMED220	Nye-Med-Two-Two-Zero	
155.2800	NYMED280	Nye-Med-Two-Eight-Zero	
155.2950	NYMED295	Nye-Med-Two-Nine-Five	
155.4000	NYMED400	Nye-Med-Four-Hundred	
155.7150	NYMED715	Nye-Med-Seven-One-Five	
155.3400	VMED28 <sup>2</sup>	Vee-Med-Two-Eight	156.7 Hz. Transmit <sup>3</sup>
155.3475	VMED29 <sup>2</sup>	Vee-Med-Two-Nine	156.7 Hz. Transmit <sup>3</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>) Transmit CTCSS of 131.8 Hz. for SAR-160 has been established by the NYS Federation of Search and Rescue Teams.

(<sup>2</sup>) This is a national standard name established in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG)

(<sup>3</sup>) Transmit tone of 156.7 Hz. as stated in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG). Default operations should be carrier-squelch receive. It is recommended to program receive as carrier squelch only (no receiver tone)

**LICENSING NOTICE:**

These guidelines DO NOT supersede the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, NOR DO THEY provide blanket authorization to use these channels without a license. An FCC license or appropriate authorization from a licensee is required for mobile, portable and base station use of these frequencies.

***See Page-3 for local implementation recommendations.***

### **LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- Develop a plan to re-program the channels name into the radio display. This should be developed by system/network administrators at the agency, county or state agency level.
- Issue a notice to all effected agencies and personnel under your jurisdiction containing local implementation plans and usage instructions
- Consider accomplishing this when radio equipment is being repaired or programmed
- Inform municipal and commercial radio maintenance facilities of these changes.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Effective upon receipt of this notice, agencies should begin using the new names.

- Discontinue using all previously used names
- Begin using the new names, even if the name displays have not been changed
- Reprogramming the radio display names should be accomplished as soon as practical

### **AWARENESS, PROMOTING USE AND TESTING**

To help integrate the new channel name into the vocabulary of the users, it is recommended that dispatch centers implement additional testing of the channel to help promote and reinforce use of the new names.

### **NOTE FOR AGENCIES THAT MAY HAVE MIGRATED AWAY FROM VHF SYSTEMS, BUT STILL MAINTAIN A BASE STATION ON THESE CHANNELS.**

It is recommended, that any existing base stations now in place, remain in place and be maintained for mutual-aid/interoperability purposes.

### **TECHNICAL DETAILS:**

For technical details regarding this change, please refer to the *Common EMS VHF Radio Channels* Communications Guideline document #13-03.

### **Please direct any questions to:**

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