

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Date: April 2, 2014
To: All EMS agencies/All CMEDs
From: Raphael M. Barishansky, MPH, MS, CPM
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services
Jonathan Best LP, EMSI, CHS-III
Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response
Re: Update regarding radio specifications

Originally beginning in 2011, the Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and with the assistance of various subject matter experts, developed new radio specifications for EMS vehicles. The rule was distributed to all EMS agencies in 2012, with a target date of implementation of 2014 - this time frame was to allow services to budget accordingly.

In February, 2014 the Department of Public Health completed its project to create total interoperability for all EMS providers in the State of Connecticut. This is the first time a system like this has been put in place. This system allows any ambulance or responder to speak to any CMED or other responders on designated frequencies. This is a first step to the development of task force operations for EMS in the event of activation in case of a disaster or large scale emergency. Ambulances will be able to move from one border of our State to the other while maintaining communications. This directive was effective February 1, 2014.

The aforementioned radio specifications are a part of the certification process for vehicles under the jurisdiction of the Office of Emergency Medical Services. We feel it is important to remind services that without these radios, EMS vehicles will not pass inspection. As a result of not passing OEMS inspection, EMS organizations would not have the ability to bill for service. Individuals that are operating without the appropriate equipment may be subject to State and Federal penalties.

Questions regarding this program may be referred to either Jonathan Best at jonathan.best@ct.gov or Raphael M. Barishansky at raphael.barishansky@ct.gov.

Your cooperation in this matter is anticipated and appreciated.



Phone: (860) 509-8000 • Fax: (860) 509-7184 • VP: (860) 899-1611
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

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