

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

James M. Thomas
Commissioner

July 27, 2005

To All Concerned:

As I hope you are aware, the State of Connecticut has implemented an interoperable voice communications system statewide to be used at the command and control level during a response to an incident. The system is commonly known as the I-CALL/TAC radio system. The infrastructure of the system is based on the Department of Public Safety's 800 MHz radio network. Every local fire chief, police chief, emergency medical service leader and all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) have been provided with radios designed to allow the use of the I-CALL/TAC system.

Chiefs of service have been provided with 800 MHz handheld radios programmed with the I-CALL/TAC channels. PSAPs have been provided with control stations also programmed with the I-CALL/TAC channels. The equipment was procured using federal grant funds and distributed to local entities. However, the license for use of the I-CALL/TAC frequencies belongs to the State. The State, specifically the Department of Public Safety, has also established a warranty and repair system for the I-CALL/TAC equipment.

In order to ensure that the radios are properly used and the I-CALL/TAC system integrity is maintained, there are some simple rules that need to be followed. Under the auspices of the Department Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council, the Communications Interoperability Committee has developed the following list of requirements for users of the I-CALL/TAC system:

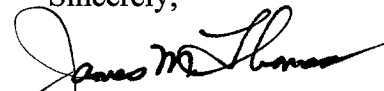
- Maintenance of an accurate inventory of equipment and assigned department/personnel
- Compliance with FCC Rules and Regulations
- No modification of equipment from delivered configuration
- No reprogramming or adding channels to the equipment
- Control Station compliance with FCC 6.1 meter rule
- Control Station power limited to 15 watts output
- Equipment malfunction or needed service to be immediately reported to the DPS Network Control Center at 860-685-8008

I am certain that you understand the need to maintain a standard configuration for the radio equipment. I also am certain that you can appreciate the need to routinely conduct training on the proper use of the radio equipment and the activation of the I-CALL/TAC system. I strongly encourage you to activate and use the I-CALL/TAC system during a response to any incident involving multiple jurisdictions or different functional elements. The more the I-CALL/TAC system is used, the more proficient operators will become.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the Connecticut Statewide Command and Control Interoperable Voice Communications System, please visit the communications section of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security web site at www.ct.gov/demhs.

Thank you for your support and participation in this very important program.

Sincerely,



James M. Thomas
Commissioner