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Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2011 12:45:38 -0700
To: Terry Mullins<Terry.Mullins@azdhs.gov>
Cc: Terry Mullins<Terry.Mullins@azdhs.gov>
Subject: EMSCOM Radio Update

Dear EMS Partners:

EMSCOM Radio Update

Background

Earlier this year we notified you of changes to the EMSCOM Radio System that will take place on July 1, 2012. If you remember, due to the Federal Communications Commission narrow-banding mandate and a shortage in funding, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) will focus its continued support on the Free Standing Repeater (FSR) service and discontinue dispatching on the Common Calling channel (CC) service. The Common Calling and Working channels will be removed from service. All narrow-band capable equipment on the CC service will be used to support the FSR system. DPS has conducted an analysis of traffic over the CC service, and it averages state wide one call per day.

Changes

As the date for the termination of the CC service approaches (July 1, 2012) DPS has asked that all EMS agencies stop using the CC and switch to FSR for all EMSCOM radio traffic on November 1, 2011. By making this switch early, DPS will have time to identify areas that are not well served by the FSR and, if possible, add capability.

Actions

- All EMS agencies should inform their staff that when using the EMSCOM radio, they should start using only the FSR channels. Starting November 1, 2011, all EMSCOM traffic should be over the FSR channels.
- All EMS agencies should test the FSR communications with their base hospitals and with healthcare institutions that they commonly communicate with during their EMS activities.
- Any agency that encounters a problem with communicating via the FSR channels should funnel that information to their respective professional organization (Arizona Ambulance Association, Arizona Fire District Association, and Arizona Fire Chief's Association) who can then share that information with DPS Wireless Bureau (see below).

NOTE:

All mobile radios on the EMSCOM Radio System will also need to be FCC narrowband compliant by the July 1, 2012 date.

Contact

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Sincerely,

Terry Mullins