

LEON COUNTY E.M.S.

Standard Operating Guideline

Title: Radio Communications
Effective: June 1, 2005
Revised: September 2008, December 2012
Revision: 2
Pages: 3

I. PURPOSE:

To provide uniform radio designations and usages

II. GUIDELINE:

The radios will be operated in conformity with the FCC rules and regulations. Only approved Codes and clear text will be used unless an exception is clearly specified.

III. PROCEDURE:

- The following designations will be used for all Department vehicles.

A. Two person ALS vehicles:

Medic 1, 2, and so on based on shift assignment.

B. One person units:

Rescue 10 – Shift Supervisor
Rescue 11 – Additional Supervisor Staff
Car 1- Department Chief
Car 2- Deputy Chief, Administration
Car 3- Deputy Chief, Operations
Car 4- Training/IQM

C. Two person ALS carts:

Cart 1, 2, and so on based on assignment by event supervisor.

D. County units will use the following identification numbers regardless of the unit number assigned for use at the County stations:

- County Station 12 – radio ID = Medic 12
- County Station 13 – radio ID = Medic 13
- County Station 14 – radio ID = Medic 14

E. When extra two person ALS transporting units are put on the road (MCI, Football coverage, etc.), the controller on duty will assign it a successive Medic unit designation (Med 40, 41 and so on or Special Ops 1, 2 and so on) based on

the designations provided in the CAD or the System Status Controller (SSC).

- Only the following Ten Codes will be used by LCEMS:
 - 10 – 4 Affirmative
 - 10 – 7 Out of service
 - 10 – 8 In service
 - 10 – 9 Repeat
 - 10 – 24 Emergency assistance needed
 - Signal 7 Dead on scene
 - CODE Cardiac arrest

Phrases such as "copy call", "en route", "on scene", "en route to _____ with _____ patients", "arriving _____", "available," etc. should be utilized on the radio.

DISPATCH CODES

- Code 1 Scheduled transport
- Code 2 Respond without lights & sirens - Needs routine evaluation & care
- Code 3 Respond with lights & sirens - Needs emergent evaluation & care
- Code 4 Cardiac Arrest

PATIENT CONDITION TRANSPORT CODES

- Code 1 Stable – scheduled transfers only
- Code 2 Any non-critical patient going to the Emergency Room
- Code 3 Critical – may be unstable & life-threatening. Immediate intensive care needed on arrival.
- Code 4 Cardiac or respiratory arrest. CPR in progress.

- The LCEMS 800 MHz system will be the primary radio system used by LCEMS. UHF radios will be used to contact hospitals and at other times as necessary. In the event of failure of the primary 800 MHz system utilize the ^ button to the left of the radio display and change the channel group to "OLD", then use the channel changing rotary knob to change the channel to "Med 8". Then dial 37 on the repeater to activate. This is also Med 8 on the dispatch console.
- All radio transmissions require acknowledgment and confirmation from both parties involved. Example of vehicle radio transmission: "Med 1 Control" (wait for answer). Dispatch response: "Medic 1?" Response from dispatch vehicle radio transmission: "Medic 1 is 10-8". Dispatch response: "10-4 Medic 1". **No one-way messages!** Clear Text will be used as the primary radio messaging process.

- LCEMS channel one will be utilized by the system controller to coordinate the entire EMS system. Channel one will use the identifier “control.”
- LCEMS channel two is utilized to relay dispatch information and to record times and mileages. Channel two will use the identifier “EMS.”
- On-duty personnel will remain available for call by monitoring channel one of their radio and LCEMS CAD pager at all times. Radio and pager must be on or within reach of on duty personnel at all times and must be in an operational manner.
- System Status Management (SSM) units will be dispatched on LCEMS channel one by Control. County units will be dispatched on LCEMS channel four by Control.
- Once dispatched on a call, the EMS crew will immediately acknowledge the radio transmission on channel one by stating their Medic number and repeating the message delivered.
- Peak ambulances are required to be en route to the site of any type of call within 30 seconds of dispatch. Rural ambulances are to be en route within one minute of alert.
- The unit will call en route by mobile radio on channel two to EMS as soon as the vehicle begins to respond.
- All other aspects of the call will be radioed to EMS on channel two, i.e., arrival on scene, en route to hospital, 10-8, etc.
- Control will be notified when a LCEMS unit departs a previously reported location. This includes fuel and supply acquisition.
- Once on scene, the LCEMS crew will as quickly as possible size-up the situation and inform control if they are going to transport or not.
- During post to post moves, Medic units are to be en route to the newly assigned post within three minutes of notification. Exceptions must be approved by dispatch. To request an exception, the affected LCEMS crew must contact dispatch and explain the reason for the time limit exception such as needing to get lunch to go, etc.
- The Regional channel UHF Med 8 is used for medical resource coordination between county bases and out of county ambulances and as a secondary Emergency Department channel for TMH or CRMC. Anything said on the regional channel can be received by base stations anywhere in the Big Bend area.
- Telephones should be used in accordance with policy as an alternative communication device for sensitive radio transmissions.