



Saratoga County EMS Council

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www.saratogaems.org



EMS Dispatch to Cut during Week of July 20th

TO: All EMS Agencies

FROM: Mike McEvoy, EMS-1

We have set a cut over for EMS communications with Dispatch from the current 155.925 MHz to the EMS Ops 154.355 frequency to occur during the week of July 20th, 2009. All EMS agencies will be transitioned during this week. Capital Digitronics (the County Radio Repair Vendor) will contact Corps to arrange reprogramming of mobile radios that they have programmers for. Corps must arrange reprogramming of portable radios.

The following changes are needed during the week of July 20th:

1. Disable transmit on 155.925 MHz.
2. Make 154.355 MHz the primary priority channel in the scan list and the default channel on radio boot up (power up).
3. Make 155.925 MHz the secondary priority scan channel (if this feature exists).
4. Make 154.355 MHz the default transmit frequency on PTT in scan mode (applies mostly to portable radios).
5. Assure that PL 85.4 is programmed for transmit and receive on the 154.355 MHz (EMS Ops) frequency. This step has previously been programmed on mobile units.

Other points to consider include assuring that all duty crew members have pagers. Without a pager, crews are likely to miss calls due to traffic on the Ops frequency. Be certain that portable radios are programmed before or during the week of July 20th or you may not be able to reach EMS Dispatch. The Ops frequency is currently available in Communications and can be used to test radios when Desk Officers are available to do so. During the week of July 20th, there will be some confusion in terminology as not all agencies will switch to Ops simultaneously. It may be helpful during the week of July 20th to clarify which frequency you are calling on (i.e. 925 or 355). Continue to use the phrase "EMS Dispatch" when calling Saratoga County on the Ops frequency. You will also notice a modification in dispatch protocol designed to reduce air time. Dispatch information will no longer be given twice (i.e. repeated) when calls are toned out. Finally, if you have neighboring ambulances (out of county) that provide mutual aid into Saratoga County and use 155.925, please pass this memo on to them so they can make needed changes in their radios. If you have a personal radio authorized for use on the county EMS network, please make sure it is reprogrammed as well. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact County EMS Coordinator Mike McEvoy (EMS-1) at mcevoymike@aol.com.