



Mike McEvoy, EMS Coordinator Saratoga County

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To: All County EMS Radio Users
From: Mike McEvoy, EMS-1
Re: EMS Radio Procedures
Date: February 14, 2002

Saratoga County EMS providers have long been recognized for their professionalism, especially on the EMS radio network. In recent months, I have noticed a trend away from this tradition. My observations have been confirmed by many of you, by our EMS Dispatch Desk Officers, and by the radio monitoring public. I would like to see us regain the respect we had enjoyed.

There are three specific behaviors that should never happen, yet seem to be recurrent:

1. On the air commentaries – we all have high expectations of ourselves, and of each other. Please keep comments about your EMS colleagues off our radio frequencies. Comments made over the air are unhelpful, hurtful, and illegal because they interfere with EMS radio communications.
2. Long transmissions – last year there were 26,393 EMS calls in Saratoga County. Often, 3 or 4 calls are being handled simultaneously. With only one dispatch frequency, it is imperative that all transmissions are short, concise, and clear. The only way to accomplish this is with each of us thinking before we transmit. Know what you plan to say before you speak, and say it in no more than one sentence.
3. Language – it is not possible to legislate manners, just as it is impossible to pass laws against stupidity. Others who listen to our EMS frequencies observe a noticeable decline in politeness. Please try to speak professionally at all times.

I would also like to remind everyone of a few Radio Procedures that are often forgotten:

- a) A maximum of 2 First Responder units (70 & 80 series) per agency may sign enroute to any one call. Additional units may respond but should not communicate with EMS Dispatch.
- b) The EMS Operations frequency (154.355) is for communications between First Responder units, and between First Responders and ambulances. Please keep this traffic off the EMS Dispatch frequency. Arrangements for ALS intercepts should also be conducted on the Ops frequency, or on 155.715 if the units involved do not have Ops capability.
- c) It is required that one person monitor the EMS Dispatch frequency and be available to answer a radio call from the start to finish of every run. This mandates that someone on the crew have a portable radio with him or her whenever you are away from your mobile radio.
- d) Transmissions about social functions and calling units in mobile service are prohibited on the EMS frequencies in Saratoga County.

I am confident that greater awareness on all of our parts will quickly improve the image that our County EMS radio frequencies project. All of you are caring and capable professionals. Let's make sure this is how we sound on the EMS Radio frequencies.