

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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TACTICAL RADIO & FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS

I. **AUTHORITY**

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797, et seq. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapters 4 through 9

II. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Disaster Control Facility (DCF)” means the facility designated to direct patient destinations by ambulance to appropriate receiving facilities during a Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI) or EMS System Saturation.
- B. “Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC)” means the individual or agency assigned the responsibility to receive and process medical and health resource requests on behalf of the county and all political subdivisions within the county.
- C. “Special Operations” means activities designed to augment the normal daily operations such as:
 - i. Decontamination of patients exposed to hazardous materials,
 - ii. Establishment of alternate triage/treatment areas,
 - iii. The deployment of Surge Capacity tents, or
 - iv. Other operations that may require deployment of portable radios to augment the current medical communications system.

III. **PURPOSE**

- A. To augment standard medical and health communications during events that require Special Operations.
- B. To provide hospital managers, EMS System managers, and other health and medical emergency managers with timely and accurate information that facilitates corrective action.

IV. **POLICY**

- A. A hospital may request a tactical frequency for special operations from the DCF.
- B. An ambulance service provider may request a tactical frequency for special operations from an authorized EMS dispatch center.

- C. Request for portable radios and frequency assignments from all other medical or health providers shall be made through the MHOAC.
 - D. The MHOAC shall deploy available caches of portable radios and frequency assignments in cooperation with the county's authorized Ambulance Dispatch Center and DCF.
 - E. Special Operations Tactical frequency assignments shall be limited to non-repeated portable radios.
- V. PROCEDURE
- A. Hospital Special Operations
 - i. When a facility has identified a need to conduct special operations (requiring a deployment of portable radios), a representative shall contact the Disaster Control Facility to request a tactical frequency assignment.
 - ii. The DCF shall contact the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) to inform them of the Special Operations in order to prevent or minimize interference with normal communications operations. The DCF shall relay the following information to the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s):
 - 1. Name of facility to use the Tactical Frequency
 - 2. Nature of the Special Operations (e.g. Decon, Surge, etc.)
 - 3. Anticipated duration of the operation
 - iii. If the DCF is notified of communications interference from the assigned Special Operations Tactical Frequency, it shall immediately assign an alternate frequency and notify the users of the change in frequency assignment.
 - iv. Once the facility has completed the Special Operations, a representative shall immediately notify the DCF of the termination of those operations and surrender the Tactical Frequency assignment.
 - v. Once the Special Operation has been terminated, the DCF shall notify the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) of the termination of the Special Operation
 - vi. Providers shall coordinate the return of any borrowed equipment with the MHOAC.
 - B. EMS Special Operations
 - i. When an EMS Provider Agency has identified a need to conduct special operations (requiring a deployment of portable radios), a representative shall contact the Ambulance Dispatch Center to request a tactical frequency assignment.
 - ii. The county's authorized Ambulance Dispatch Center shall contact the appropriate neighboring counties' Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) to inform them of the Special Operations in order to prevent or minimize interference with normal communications operations. The county's authorized Ambulance Dispatch

Center shall relay the following information to the appropriate neighboring Ambulance Dispatch Center(s):

1. Name of EMS Provider to use the Tactical Frequency
 2. Nature of the Special Operations (e.g. Decon, Surge, etc.)
 3. Anticipated duration of the operation
- iii. If the county's Authorized Ambulance Dispatch Center is notified of communications interference from the assigned Special Operations Tactical Frequency, it shall immediately assign an alternate frequency and notify the users of the change in frequency assignment.
 - iv. Once the EMS Provider Agency has completed the Special Operations, a representative shall immediately notify the DCF of the termination of those operations and surrender the Tactical Frequency assignment.
 - v. Once the Special Operation has been terminated, the Ambulance Dispatch Center shall notify any other appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) of the termination of the Special Operation
 - vi. Providers shall coordinate the return of any borrowed equipment with the MHOAC.

C. Other Medical/Health Provider Request

- i. Once an Other Medical/Health Provider has identified a need to conduct special operations (requiring a deployment of portable radios), a representative shall contact the MHOAC to request a portable radio cache and tactical frequency assignment.
- ii. The MHOAC shall contact the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) to inform them of the Special Operations in order to prevent or minimize interference with normal communications operations. The MHOAC shall relay the following information to the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s):
 1. Name of facility to use the Tactical Frequency
 2. Nature of the Special Operations (e.g. Decon, Surge, etc.)
 3. Anticipated duration of the operation
- iii. If the MHOAC is notified of communications interference from the assigned Special Operations Tactical Frequency, it shall immediately notify the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s), request an alternate frequency, and then notify the users of the change in frequency assignment.
- iv. Once the Other Medical/Health Provider has completed the Special Operations, a representative shall immediately notify the MHOAC of the termination of those operations and surrender the radio cache and Tactical Frequency assignment.
- v. Once the Special Operation has been terminated, the MHOAC shall notify the appropriate Ambulance Dispatch Center(s) of the termination of the Special Operation

- vii. Providers shall coordinate the return of any borrowed equipment with the MHOAC.

D. Frequency Assignments

Medical Tactical Frequency assignments shall be made in such a manner as to reduce the possibility of interference with normal daily operations, and in accordance with the following priorities: (i.e. assignments shall be made based upon the furthest point from normal daily radio frequency operations).

| County | Normal EMS Med-Net Operations | Special Operations Tactical Frequency | Priority | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Alpine | Med 2 (468.025) | Med 1 (468.000) Med 4 (468.075) Med 8 (468.175) Med 6 (468.125) Med 5 (468.100) | 1 2 3 4 5 | Normally used in San Joaquin |
| Amador | Med 8 (468.175) "Med 13" (458.425) | Med 5 (468.100) Med 1 (468.000) Med 2 (468.025) Med 4 (468.075) Med 6 (468.125) | 1 2 3 4 5 | Normally used in San Joaquin |
| Calaveras | Med 3 (468.050) | Med 2 (468.025) Med 5 (468.100) Med 4 (468.075) Med 6 (468.125) Med 8 (468.175) | 1 2 3 4 5 | Normally used in San Joaquin |
| Mariposa | Med 8 (468.175) | Med 2 (468.025) Med 4 (468.075) Med 6 (468.125) Med 5 (468.100) Med 1 (468.000) | 1 2 3 4 5 | |
| Stanislaus | Med 1 (468.000) Med 5 (468.100) | Med 7 (468.150) Med 2 (468.025) Med 6 (468.125) Med 3 (468.050) Med 4 (468.075) | 1 2 3 4 5 | Normally used in San Joaquin |

--- END OF POLICY 380.20 ---