

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

Tactical Radio Frequencies

- Usage of tactical radio frequencies
 - Tactical radio channels are available to be used for the following purposes:
 - To relieve radio traffic congestion on agency dispatch frequencies during multi-agency responses.
 - To provide for common and unified on-scene communications.
 - To provide dedicated communications channels for specific on-scene operations.
 - It is expressly forbidden to use the tactical radio channels for the following:
 - As a talk around channel for non-essential radio traffic.
 - For routine administrative communications that can be accomplished by other communications methods.
 - Examples of tactical channel usage are:
 - Multi-agency responses (MVA with entrapment, working fires with multiple agencies)
 - Multi-unit responses within the same agency (three EMS units coordinating response on the same call, working fires involving one fire department)
 - Responses which continue for long time frames (searches, STAR Team responses, working fires)
 - Training exercises (live burns, mass casualty drills)
 - Unified command situations
 - Special events with Emergency Services presence (festivals, large gatherings).
 - Agencies will not use tactical channels for events such as fund-raisers or other non-emergency responses. These agencies will use other frequencies or communications methods for these type events.
- Procedure for requesting tactical channels
 - On any response that requires a tactical channel (see guidelines above), the Incident Commander, upon establishing Command, will advise the Communications Center which tactical channel he/she requests to operate on. The Communications Center will assign this channel and advise all other responding agencies of the tactical channel

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assignment. On-scene operations will use the assigned tactical channel until termination of the incident or notification by Incident Command to utilize another channel. When another agency besides EMS establishes Incident Command, EMS units will switch to the assigned tactical channel upon arrival to the scene.

- If the selected tactical channel is not available for use, the Communications Center will notify the Incident Commander the channel is unavailable. The Incident Commander will select another tactical channel and will follow the same step as above.
- Available Tactical Channels are
 - Tac 1 (Zone 2, Channel 1)
 - Tac 2 (Zone 2, Channel 2)
 - Tac 3 (Zone 2, Channel 3)
 - Tac 4 (Zone 2, Channel 4)
 - Tac 5 (Zone 2, Channel 5)
 - Tac 6 (Zone 2, Channel 6)
 - Tac 7 (Zone 2, Channel 7)
 - Tac 8 (Zone 2, Channel 8)
 - There may be some instances where VHF channels will be used on incidents. These channels will be found on the assigned VHF portables. Available channels will be CCEMS 280, County Fire 2, Law Channel 2, CCEMS 160, Catawba County Local Government.
- Should multiple tactical channels be necessary for a single incident, the Incident Commander **and only** the Incident Commander will request the additional channels.
- In VIPER Radios, Statewide Events Channels will only be used for regional and statewide incidents/responses. They may not be used without express permission of the State Emergency Operations Center.