



NEW YORK STATE
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Jerome M. Hauer, Ph.D., MHS, Commissioner

COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINE NUMBER 13-03

**Name and Use of Common EMS VHF Radio Channels
In New York State**

Effective: Immediately
Date Issued: April 2, 2014

Valid: Until revoked or superseded
Revision: 0

SUMMARY:

This document establishes a standard name for commonly used VHF-High Band channels utilized by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in New York State.

DESCRIPTION:

The following frequencies have been renamed.

Frequency	New Name	Pronunciation	CTCSS
155.1600	SAR160	Sar-One-Six-Zero	131.8 Hz. ¹
155.1750	NYMED175	Nye-Med-One-Seven-Five	
155.2200	NYMED220	Nye-Med-Two-Two-Zero	
155.2800	NYMED280	Nye-Med-Two-Eight-Zero	
155.2950	NYMED295	Nye-Med-Two-Nine-Five	
155.4000	NYMED400	Nye-Med-Four-Hundred	
155.7150	NYMED715	Nye-Med-Seven-One-Five	
155.3400	VMED28 ²	Vee-Med-Two-Eight	156.7 Hz. Transmit ³
155.3475	VMED29 ²	Vee-Med-Two-Nine	156.7 Hz. Transmit ³

⁽¹⁾ Transmit CTCSS of 131.8 Hz. for SAR160 has been established by the NYS Federation of Search and Rescue Teams.

⁽²⁾ This is a national standard name in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG).

⁽³⁾ Transmit tone of 156.7 Hz. as stated in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG). Default operations should be carrier-squelch receive. It is not recommended to program a receiver tone.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Full transition to the use of the new channel names will take time, however all users should begin use of the new names and should rename visual displays in radio equipment, immediately. Agencies and system managers should inform their users of this name changes so they are familiar with the new names and how it relates to the current appearance in their radios.

LICENSED USE:

This guideline does NOT supersede the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations. An FCC license or appropriate authorization from a licensee is required for mobile, portable and base station use.

CAUTION: Some of these frequencies are not for the exclusive use for EMS Communications, as they are licensed by other entities for their own operational purposes. Transient users of the frequencies operating in other areas of the state (during mutual-aid conditions) should avoid causing interference with other licensed users.

PERMITTED USES:

EMS Operations (Tactical, Ambulance to Ambulance, Ambulance to Hospital Communications)

PROHIBITED USES:

Non-EMS, non-public safety related activities.

Concerns regarding misuse of these frequencies should be reported to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for review. Email: DHSESOIEC@dhses.ny.gov Phone: 518-322-4911

TECHNICAL PARAMETERS:

- Only analog, narrowband transmissions are permitted.
- The use of a radio programed "time out timer" is mandatory, with transmissions not permitted to exceed 180 seconds (3 minutes) each.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION:

- Users shall identify their agency when initiating transmissions on these channels (e.g. "Acme EMS Unit 123 to Anytown Hospital").
- Users shall use plain language when operating on these frequencies. The use of "10-codes" or other codes is prohibited. Medical related terminology, abbreviations and codes are permitted.

JUSTIFICATION:

Since the statewide EMS communications plan was established in the 1970s, the list of available channels has changed and they have become known by many different names, leading to confusion in the end user community. As part of an overall review of interoperable channels, a working group of the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board recommended these standardized names.