

# EMS Communications Committee Meeting Notes July 2015

The EMS Communications Committee met on July 8, 2015, from 1–2 p.m. in Orlando, FL.

- The Committee was briefed on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) proposed for FirstNet (generically known as the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network), which is known in Florida as FloridaNet. The FloridaNet group has been preparing comments for the FirstNet RFP. The final RFP is expected by the end of the year.
  - FirstNet established the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to assist FirstNet. Membership in PSAC includes International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, National Association of State EMS Officials (Paul Patrick), National EMS Management Association, and At Large, Fire Non-Management First Line Responder, to name a few.
  - A FloridaNet survey was distributed for feedback from public safety agencies.
- No update on PST Certification of Telecommunicators
- Volume I of the EMS Communications Plan is being proposed as a final draft for Department of Management Services (DMS) approval to finalize and post on the DMS web site. Feedback during the vetting period resulted in clarifying a radio frequency used for EMS air secondary and hospital communications.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a May 2014 brochure titled “Public Safety Communications Evolution,” which includes the following quotes:
  - “In the near term, wireless broadband will complement Land Mobile Radio (LMR), not replace it.”
  - “Investments in LMR will continue to be necessary now and well into the future.”
  - “Public safety is using commercial broadband services today for many different data applications.”
  - “In the future, broadband may be able to support mission critical voice.”
- Final rulemaking by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created 700 MHz deployable trunked channels (e.g., mobile repeater systems) and 700 MHz air-ground channels. These are the same channels nationwide, so your 700 MHz radios can become more interoperable. Look for more on this as each set of channels are integrated into Florida’s 700 MHz Region 9 Plan or 700 MHz Interoperable Channel Plan.

EMS Communications Committee  
Meeting Notes  
July 2015

- The FCC has proposed a rule to create interstitial channels between existing 800 MHz channels. Florida filed comments with interests for the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) as well as the interests for all public safety licensees on existing 800 MHz channels in Florida.
- A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rule was addressed by DMS – specifically FAA rule section 135.619, Operational Control Centers. This rule correlates with the Vehicle Dispatch and Response (VDR) requirement in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the EMS Communications Plan, Volume I. It also correlates with flight-following in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Revision of the current nationwide Channel Naming Standard is being proposed. One change is adding a common name for the SAR channel (VSAR16) as a common-use channel (155.1600 MHz), as well as common names for the 700 MHz air-ground channels. This revision as already been approved by the Governing Board of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council and is being submitted for consideration in the upcoming ANSI Standard update.