



Radio Communications Equipment		
Section/Area: Technology		
Approved by: _____  EMS Deputy Chief		
Effective Date: 10/20/20	Revision Date:	

PURPOSE

To define the standards for issuance of portable and mobile radio equipment owned by the City of Virginia Beach, within the Department of EMS.

SCOPE

This applies to all members of the Department of Emergency Medical Services.

GUIDELINE/PROCEDURE

Members and/or units may be issued portable or mobile radio equipment to facilitate rapid, public safety communications on duty and on-call. All radio assets shall be managed by the Brigade Chief of Communications and Technology. Any individual who is issued radio equipment shall be responsible for the maintenance, safeguarding, and return of that equipment in accordance with the asset agreement signed when the equipment is released to their custody.

Any loss or damage must be reported via the members chain of command immediately. Due to the potentially sensitive nature of public safety radios there shall be a notification for lost radios made as soon as feasible, but no longer than the next business day, to the Brigade Chief of Communications and Technology so the radio can be inhibited to prevent unauthorized use or access to the system.

The following shall be the standards for issuing any radio equipment to individuals or units in the Department of EMS. Individuals holding more than 1 eligible position shall not be issued multiple radios, i.e. an Assistant Chief who is also a Paramedic would not get 2 radios, 1 radio from each category.

Unit-assigned radios may need to be purchased by the entity acquiring the vehicle, when the vehicle is a net-new fleet addition and not a vehicle replacement.

Portable Radios:

- Ambulance – Each ambulance shall be assigned 3 portable radios, aliased as “AMB #A”, “AMB #B”, “AMB #C”, where # represents the unit number.
 - 3 portable radio chargers shall be supplied in all new purchase, or refit ambulances, located in the front cab or other appropriate location.

- As funding allows existing ambulances shall have an attempt to have a 3rd charger retrofit into them.
- Zone Medic – Each zone medic vehicle shall be assigned 1 portable radio, aliased as “ZONEMED#”, where # represents the unit number.
- Operations Supervisors Cars – Each operations supervisor (EMS-1/2/3) car shall be assigned 2 portable radios, aliased as “EMS01-2”, “EMS02-2”, “EMS03-2”, “EMS01-3”, “EMS02-3”, & “EMS03-3” as applicable.
- Chief Officer Car – Each Chief Officer car shall be assigned 1 portable radio, aliased as “ECH#-2”, where # represents the individuals officer number.
- Other Department Vehicles – Other Department vehicles may be assigned a portable radio or radios, on the following conditions:
 - Vehicle is designated as a response vehicle, defined as an active unit ID in the CAD system where that unit is dispatchable to calls.
 - DMSU/MCI Truck – Each DMSU shall be issued two (2) portable radios aliased as “MCI#” and “MCI#-2”, where # represents the truck number.
 - AMBCART – Each ambulance cart shall be issued two (2) portable radios aliased as “CART#” and “CART#-2”, where # represents the assigned unit number.
 - Marine Rescue Truck – Each Marine Rescue truck shall be issued two (2) portable radios, aliased as “MMTK#”, where # represents the unit number.
- Officer – Staff – Each EMS Staff Officer shall be issued a portable radio. This radio shall be aliased as “EMS CAPT #” for Captains or “ECH#” for Chief Officers, where # represents the individuals officer number. The Operational Medical Director shall be aliased as “MD01”.
- Officer – Volunteer (EMS):
 - Each Assistant Chief shall be issued a portable radio. This radio shall be aliased as “ECH#”, where # represents the individuals officer number.
 - Each Rescue Squad will be issued two portable radios designated for the Squad Commander and Assistant Squad Commander (Operations). These radios shall be aliased as “EMS##50” or “EMS##51”, where # represents the Rescue Squad number.
 - Special Operations Officers – Special operations personnel may be issued a portable radio:
 - Search and Rescue Team Captain – Shall be aliased as “SAR01”.
 - Bike Team Captain – Shall be aliased as “MBK01”.
 - EMS-3 Team Captain – Shall be aliased as “VFS01”
 - SWAT Medic Team Captain – Shall be aliased as “SWATMEDIC01”
 - If an active, volunteer EMS Field Supervisor does not otherwise have a radio assigned, they may be eligible to have one issued under this section

with the approval of the Division Chief of Operations, aliased as “VFS02”, “VFS03”, consecutively.

- This equipment shall be assigned for the term of the officer’s appointment and must be surrendered to EMS HQ at the end of their term.
- Medic – Each Paramedic may be issued a portable radio on the following conditions:
 - Active, operational member status.
 - Fully released to general supervision at the Paramedic level.
 - Recommendation from the member’s Squad Commander/Captain with concurrence from the Assistant Chief/Brigade Chief.
 - Radios are allocated on an *as-available* basis. There is no “allotment by squad” or any other classification.
- Marine Rescue – Marine Rescue Team members may be issued a portable radio on the following conditions. These radios shall be aliased as “MRT#”, where # represents the individuals ID number.
 - On approval of the Marine Rescue Squad Commander (Captain).
 - Active, operational member.
 - Fully released to general supervision as a Coxswain.
 - Radios are issued on an *as-available* basis based on allocation total for MRT.
- Physician – EMS Physician members may be issued a radio at the discretion of the EDP program manager. These radios shall be aliased as “MD#” where # represents their assigned ID number.
- Tactical Medic – Each Tactical Medic shall be issued two (2) portable radios, on the following conditions. These radios shall be aliased as “SWATMEDIC#” & “SWATMEDIC# -2”, where # represents their ID number.
 - On approval of the Division Chief of Operations.
 - Active, operational member.
- Cache – A cache of no less than 24 portable radios shall always be maintained. This cache may be assigned to a specific purpose, such as a planned special event, or may be deployed on a no-notice event to support operations. The Brigade Chief of Communications and Technology shall be responsible for maintaining the ready state of this cache.
- Other radios may be assigned at the discretion of the relevant Department officer based on demonstrated business need and asset availability. It shall be the responsibility of the Brigade Chief of Communications and Technology that the aliasing and issuing standards are kept consistent with the Department standards.

Mobile Radios:

All mobile radios shall be aliased like the aliasing standards above, with the prefix M- before the alias. Ex: AMB 222A, AMB 222B, & AMB 222C are Ambulance 222's portables, M-AMB 222 would be the mobile.

Each unit shall have VHF capability either through a dual-band 800/VHF or standalone VHF radio. This SOG may be complemented with more detailed specifications in the TASIR document.

- Ambulance – Each ambulance shall be assigned 1 mobile radio with 2 control heads, one located in the cab and one located in the patient compartment.
- Zone Medic – Each zone medic vehicle shall be assigned 1 mobile radio with 1 control head located in the center console.
- Operations Supervisors Car – Each operations supervisors car shall have at least 3 mobile radios in the following configuration:
 - 2 800mHz with 2 control heads, one in the center console and one in the rear command center.
 - 1 standalone VHF (or dual-band 800/VHF radio with 2 control heads, one in the center console and one in the rear command center.
- Chief Officer Car – Chief Officer cars configuration may vary by purpose.
 - Vehicles equipped with a mobile command console shall be equipped with similar capability to Operations Supervisors Cars.
- Other Department Vehicles – Marked Department units specified as emergency response vehicles shall have a mobile radio installed. The individual configuration may vary by unit and may include: DMSU's, Marine Rescue Trucks, utility vehicles, rescue boats, etc.
- Receiving Hospital ED – Each CoVB hospital ED shall have a mobile radio installed for the purposes of field unit communication to receiving facility and vice-versa; and may include inter-hospital communications in certain situations.
- Fixed Facilities – EMS fixed facilities, namely stations, shall have mobile/site radio systems installed. The configuration of these systems will vary.