



ALS COMMUNICATIONS ASSIGNMENT

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety HS Code, Division 2.5 Emergency Medical Services, 1798.176. The authority shall establish the minimum standard for the policies and procedures necessary for medical control of the EMS system.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the criteria for a paramedic to request communication assignment to a base hospital and the transmission process.

III. ASSIGNMENT REQUEST:

A paramedic at the incident scene, upon determining that medical direction from a BH is appropriate, shall request the OCC establish a communications assignment.

EXCEPTIONS: A paramedic shall request a communications assignment prior to arrival at the scene when the paramedic:

- is knowledgeable of the response area and has experienced previous radio coverage problems (i.e., "dead spots") in the area;
- has been advised by the first responders that the incident may require more than one advanced life support (ALS) unit (multiple victim incident);
- has been advised en-route by first responders of the patient's status and that a frequency assignment will be needed.

IV. COMMUNICATION MODE:

When contact with OCC is not possible, the following alternatives are available in order of priority:

- Jurisdiction's dispatch center to OCC.
- Fire service radio channel (800MHz = 4A).
- Telephone OCC at 834-7033.

At the discretion of the paramedic, any prehospital care team member may request a communications assignment from "OCC" utilizing the above mentioned methods. However, the paramedic is responsible for transmitting patient information directly to the base hospital medical control.

If the paramedic cannot establish a direct link (i.e., without a third party retransmitting that information) to discuss patient condition and receive orders, then an ALS Treatment and Communications Failure form is to be completed either via OCMEDS reporting or on paper. Reference OCEMS Policy and Procedures #330.15 and #330.90.

V. TRANSMISSION:

- A. The paramedic (or designee) contacts OCC stating his/her radio identifier and waits for acknowledgment.

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- B. After OCC responds to the paramedic with his/her radio identifier, the paramedic reports the unit's identifier, the response area district number, and the type of medical aid.
 - C. The paramedic should wait two to three minutes prior to contacting the assigned BH to allow for MICN response to the Radio Room.
 - D. The paramedic shall utilize his/her radio unit identifier with the assigned Alpha or Bravo designator on all radio transmissions.
 - E. All radio transmissions requiring more than 30 seconds to complete shall be separated into 30-second intervals. Use of the words "10-4 so far?" or "break" followed by a 2 or 3 second silence will accomplish this spacing in transmissions.

Approved:

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