



**AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS
GROUND AMBULANCE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT**

I. AUTHORITY:

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 12. California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.200, 1797.204, & 1798. County of Orange Ambulance Ordinance. Policy sets minimum acceptable standards, any exemptions for public providers allowed by law.

II. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT:

- A. All ambulance communication equipment shall be operational at all times.
 - 1. Each ambulance shall have one (1) UHF MED-9 radio programmed with two MED-9 channels.
 - a. MED-9 RP – This is a countywide repeater channel that provides coverage to the Orange County Area and may be used anywhere inside and adjacent to the County of Orange when wide-area coverage is required, or when contact with OCC or OCEMS is necessary.
 - b. MED-9 TA – This is the output of the MED-9 RP channel, providing a talk around mode of communication, and may be used anywhere inside and adjacent to the County of Orange when line of sight communications is required. OCC cannot be contacted on MED-9 TA.
- B. The UHF MED-9 Radio shall be in the “on” and programmed to the MED-9 channel at all times and the microphone attached while the ambulance is in operation.
- C. The ambulance service provider shall be responsible for all maintenance and repair costs to the communications equipment installed in the ground ambulance.
- D. This communication equipment is designated for Multi-Casualty Incidents, disaster or emergency use only, not for day-to-day dispatch operations.
- E. If an ambulance is assigned to a strike team, or to an incident, at the request of the strike team leader, OCEMS, IC or equivalent authority, they shall activate and monitor the MED-9 radio frequency continuously.
- F. Every ambulance provider shall have continuous access to a MED-9 radio in dispatch. This shall be a separate radio from other dispatch equipment and shall be on at all times.
 - 1. This dispatch radio shall participate in the same routine radio checks as other ambulance MED-9 radios. If it does not meet the compliance standards for the scheduled radio test procedure, OCEMS may require it be re-checked by OCC, at the ambulance provider’s expense.
 - 2. All FCC licenses are the responsibility of ambulance service providers.

III. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT INSPECTION:

- A. Ambulance providers will only be approved for a MED-9 radio in their Dispatch Center if:
 - 1. The provider is located within Orange County, or
 - 2. The provider is not further than 5 miles outside the Orange County border, or
 - 3. The provider has a transmitter within Orange County (or no further than 5 miles from the Orange County border), that can relay to the ambulance providers headquarters.
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- B. Each ambulance shall have its MED-9 Radio inspected by Orange County Sheriff's Department Communications & Technology Division (OCSD/Communications) upon initial licensure to operate in Orange County. The ambulance provider shall be responsible for all costs associated with the inspection.
- C. Elements of Inspection and Certification include:
 - 1. All ambulance communication equipment inspections shall be documented by OCSD/Communications.
 - a. Radio equipment will be checked for: Model number, serial number and vehicle identification number.
 - b. FCC compliance for frequency, modulation, power, and receive sensitivity.
 - 2. Any item of non-compliance shall be documented by OCSD/Communications and a copy provided to OCEMS.
 - 3. The inspecting agent shall review all noted items of non-compliance with the ambulance service operator or ambulance service operator's representative at the time of inspection.
 - 4. A copy of all documentation shall be provided by OCSD/Communications to the ambulance service operator, and to OCEMS.
- D. Non-Compliance
 - 1. At the time of inspection the inspecting agent shall indicate, in writing, to the ambulance service operator or ambulance service operator's representative specific items of non-compliance, and the time frame for correction, and re-inspection.
 - 2. It is the responsibility of the ambulance service operator to arrange for re-inspection within fourteen (14) days of notice of non-compliance.
 - 3. If the items of non-compliance are not corrected and re-inspected by an inspecting agent within the fourteen (14) days of notice of non-compliance, OCEMS will be notified.

IV. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TESTING REQUIREMENT:

- A. Orange County EMS shall conduct regular Ground Ambulance MED-9 Communication equipment tests following a schedule that is determined by OCEMS.
- B. All OCEMS licensed Ground Ambulance providers shall participate in the regular MED-9 Radio test as determined and conducted by OCEMS.
- C. A MED-9 radio check is valid and marked as successful once OCEMS acknowledges the ground units transmission.
- D. Each ambulance that does not meet the compliance standards for the MED-9 radio check conducted by OCEMS shall be required to have the radio re-checked by OCC at the ambulance provider's expense. Non-compliance is defined as failing to perform two (2) radio checks in one (1) calendar year from January 1st through December 31st.

V. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TESTING REQUIREMENT:



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A. MED-9 Radio Test Schedule

1. A MED-9 Radio Test Schedule will be developed by Orange County EMS and distributed to each ambulance provider. Each ambulance provider will be assigned a specific day in which they will have their staff conduct a radio test on MED-9 with OCEMS from each one of their ambulances.
2. Ambulance units must be sure they have the **MED-9 RP** (repeater) channel to conduct a radio test with OCEMS.

B. Ambulance Providers

1. Each ambulance provider will be assigned a specific day on which to conduct MED-9 radio tests with OCEMS from each of their ambulances.
2. Each ambulance provider will supply Orange County EMS with a list of current ambulance unit numbers 72 hours prior to each test. Ambulance units will use their ambulance provider name and unit number to identify themselves on MED-9 when conducting the radio test with OCEMS.

Example

- a. Initiate test: Ambulance: "OCEMS, this is ABC unit 881 on MED-9 for a radio test." OCEMS response: "ABC unit 881, this is OCEMS, you are 10-2"
 - b. Conclusion of test: Ambulance: "10-4 OCEMS, you are 10-2 as well. ABC unit 881 clear."
3. The MED-9 radio tests will be initiated by the ambulance provider units anytime within the 4-hour period on the date specified on the schedule.
 4. The ambulance provider will conduct a MED-9 radio test with OCEMS from each one of their Orange County licensed ambulance units on the scheduled test day.

C. Orange County EMS

1. OCEMS will maintain a MED-9 Radio Test Form for each ambulance provider. This form will include a checklist of current ambulance unit numbers for the corresponding ambulance provider.
2. As the ambulance units contact OCEMS for radio tests throughout the scheduled test day, the OCEMS operator coordinating the radio tests will indicate the results of each ambulance's radio test on the form next to the ambulance's unit ID number.

D. Unscheduled Tests

1. Any MED-9 authorized ambulance unit may conduct an unscheduled MED-9 radio test at any time but an unscheduled test will not relieve the testing ambulance from participating in the scheduled monthly test.

VI. 800 MHz COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT:

- A. The authority to purchase and utilize 800 MHz radios that operate on the County of Orange 800 MHz Countywide Coordinated Communications System (CCCS) may only be authorized by the Orange County Fire Chief's Association (OCFCA).
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- B. Authorizations are limited to those companies that have a 9-1-1 transportation contract with an Orange County fire department, unless otherwise approved by the OCFCA.
- C. OCSD/Communications will coordinate all activity related to the implementation of the 800 MHz CCCS for any ambulance provider. Approved ambulance providers agree to abide by the protocols and procedures outlined in the 800 MHz CCCS Security Plan, Standard Operating Procedures and all applicable FCC rules and regulations.
- D. The programming of approved radios shall only be done by OCSD/Communications.
- E. The associated costs of purchasing, programming and installing the radio are the responsibility of the ambulance company.
- F. Each ambulance provider will be responsible for providing initial user training to include an 800 MHz CCCS overview, mobile/portable operations and proper radio protocols and procedures. Each fire department may, at their option, provide additional specific operational radio procedures to the ambulance provider.
- G. Ambulance providers shall use best efforts for ensuring that 800 MHz CCCS radios are available on OCEMS approved 9-1-1 transportation units and that all personnel are trained on the proper use of the radios.
- H. If an ambulance company no longer provides 9-1-1 transportation services to an Orange County fire department, the ambulance provider shall notify OCSD/Communications. The radios will be disabled from the trunked radio system, and OCSD/Communications will remove the programming of the radios at ambulance company expense. The radios remain the property of the ambulance provider.

Approved:

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