



County of Caroline
Department of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Management

To: All Fire and Rescue Personnel
From: Deputy Chief Mark Garnett
Cc: Lisa Harvey, Communications Manager
Ref: New Radio System Questions
Date: December 8, 2015

Chief Loftus asked that I provide some additional guidance in response to some recent questions that have come up concerning our new radio system. Here are some questions and answers:

Q: I'm transporting to a hospital located outside our County 700 MHz radio coverage. How should I notify Dispatch when I arrive and clear from the ER?

A: You may notify Dispatch via your VHF radio or via phone (804-633-4357). If utilizing the VHF radio, please identify your use of this system when calling. *For example: Medic 231 to Caroline on VHF, arriving at VCU Medical Center.*

Q: I'm cross staffing (both EMS and Fire) at a station. I check out a Rescue portable from the bank at the beginning of my shift (for example – Rescue 1 Port 1). A fire call comes out in which I need to respond to in an Engine. Do I need to switch out portables to run this call?

A: No, it is not necessary to swap radios. Your bank portable is assigned to you until returned.

Q: I'm in charge of a landing zone for a medical helicopter inbound to Caroline. I need to speak with the Helicopter on EMS Statewide. May I do this with my new 700 MHz radio?

A: Yes. Caroline's Dispatch Center has the ability to patch common VHF channels to our 700 MHz system. Simply ask Dispatch to patch statewide to one of our Fire and Rescue 700 MHz talk groups.

Note – in addition to EMS Statewide our 911 Center has the capabilities to patch our 700 MHz system to neighboring jurisdictions.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.