



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arkansas Ambulance Owner/Operator

FROM: S. Ryan Tyler, B.A., NREMT B
Section of EMS

DATE: January 12, 2012

RE: FCC TRANSITION TO NARROWBAND OPERATIONS

Please find the attached the Federal Communications Commission Public Notice (DA 12-12a) reminding licensees, frequency coordinators, equipment manufacturers, and other interested parties of the Federal Communications Commission's **January 1, 2013** deadline for private land mobile radio licensees in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz (VHF/UHF) bands to migrate to narrowband (12.5 kHz or narrower) technology

1. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is giving a **January 1, 2013** deadline for narrowbanding frequencies from 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz. These frequencies are migrating from 25 kHz to a 12.5 kHz.
2. This **will** affect all Arkansas EMS frequencies:
 - a. 155.340
 - b. 155.280
 - c. 155.235
3. If you hold a current FCC license you will need to modify that license with the new Emission Designator.
 - a. 11K2F3E
4. All radio equipment in Arkansas Licensed Ambulances, Dispatch Centers, and Personal Radios will need to be compliant with narrowbanding by the January 1, 2013 deadline.
5. Regarding Arkansas Rules and Regulations on EMS

Section V. REGISTRATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES

1. Part C. Specific Standards

- a. Each registered vehicle shall have two-way direct communication with dispatch centers and/or base stations, other emergency medical service vehicles and receiving hospitals.

6. All licensed services should make arrangements with their radio vendor to check their radio equipment and advise on the status of reprogramming versus replacement of their radios. We encourage all services to make those arrangements sooner rather than later, as this new rule touches all of the business radio users in the state. As the January 1, 2013 deadline gets closer it may become very difficult to get a service tech scheduled to visit your service.

This mandate comes from the Federal Communications Commission and not from the Arkansas Department of Health, Section of EMS. For further information please find attached the Public Notice DA 12-12a from the FCC. You may also get more information from the following website where you can find a PowerPoint presentation concerning narrowbanding as well:

<http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>

For compliance on this issue, the section of EMS is asking that once your service has completed all necessary updates that you submit a letter on company letterhead stating that all EMS radios have been updated and meet the new standards.

Should you have questions please feel free to contact the Section of EMS; however many of your questions can be answered at the above website which has a list of specific contacts for areas of concern.

S. Ryan Tyler, B.A., NREMT B
Data Manager