



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

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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 1797.204, 1797.200, & 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.
- 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 OC EMS is necessary.
  - 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 MCI, 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.
- 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.
  - All FCC licenses are the responsibility of ambulance service providers.

III. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT INSPECTION:

- A. Each ambulance shall have its MED-9 Radio inspected by the 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.
- B. Elements of Inspection and Certification include:
1. All ambulance communication equipment inspections shall be documented by OCSD/Communications.



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- 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.
- C. 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. Each Ambulance that does not meet the compliance standards for the MED-9 radio check conducted by OCEMS may 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 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### V. UHF MED-9 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TESTING PROCEDURE:

#### 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 OC EMS.

#### B. Ambulance Providers

