

PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No; 105  
Effective Date: 3/1/97  
Supersedes: Section 2, Page 29

SUBJECT: PROCEDURE FOR SECURING MED-COM RADIO SYSTEM (CODE 33)

I. SCOPE:

This procedure, when activated by Med-Com during periods of high volume EMS radio traffic, will secure the Med-Com radio system to emergency traffic only. This applies both to field units and hospitals. The originator must have immediate knowledge that conditions exist with great probability that serious injury or death may result from missed radio traffic.

II. PURPOSE:

To provide Med-Com with a procedure, that when activated, will suspend all communications. This code informs all field units and hospitals that all Med-Com frequencies must be cleared. All units and hospitals must maintain radio silence unless directly contacted by Med-Com or involved in the same or similar emergency.

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County Health Officer

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Date

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Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

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Date

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Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

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Date

### III. ACTIVATION:

- A. This procedure will be activated anytime a Med-Com dispatcher determines that a secure radio system is needed to properly handle a high volume of EMS radio traffic. No specific criteria is suggested. Each dispatcher is best able to judge when activation is needed. Situations that justify using Code 33 are, but should not be limited to:
1. Multiple Casualty Incidents;
  2. Responses involving criminal activities;
  3. Periods of high volume radio traffic where there is a life-threatening situation in progress.
- B. When the decision to activate this procedure is made, Med-Com will broadcast over all Med-Com frequencies "Code 33 is now in effect until further notice." From this point on, all communications will be suspended unless directly contacted by Med-Com or involved in the same or similar emergency.
- C. Any unit that receives emergency traffic after the Code 33 has been initiated must announce "emergency traffic." Emergency traffic indicates higher urgency than routine traffic. When the decision to use emergency traffic is made, units will broadcast "emergency traffic" and wait for Med-Com to answer. Med-Com will answer all "emergency traffic" communication from the field immediately.

### IV. TERMINATION:

Code 33 should be canceled as soon as possible after termination of the condition. Cancellation of Code 33 will be broadcast on all Med-Com frequencies.

### V. RESPONSIBILITY OF MED-COM

Med-Com, having the authority to initiate the Code 33, must do so only when the above conditions are met. Med-Com must also terminate this condition as soon as it is no longer needed.

### VI. RESPONSIBILITY OF FIELD UNITS AND HOSPITALS

When notified of a Code 33, will terminate all communications with Med-Com and other units, unless directly contacted by Med-Com or involved in the same or similar emergency.