



# CENTRAL SHENANDOAH EMS COUNCIL

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To: All CSEMS area agencies

From: Matt Painter  
Executive Director

Re: Important Protocol Information, Terrorism Info.

## PLEASE READ!!

### Protocols

As you know we have been working diligently on the new protocols. We have completed them, finally. We will not be printing protocol books until January as we are waiting the results of a grant to fund them and give a couple of months to field test the new protocols and make changes as necessary.

We are in the process of providing training on the new protocols at CE this month. We have added new medications and the drug boxes are changing. At the classes we are going over the changes and the new drugs. These are open to both ALS and BLS providers, however the ALS providers are **HIGHLY** encouraged to attend. We will be exchanging drug boxes on October 22, 23 and 24. We felt the most efficient way to accomplish this is to deliver the boxes to each agency. Council staff, Stonewall Jackson Hospital Transport and Rockingham County paid staff will be performing this. We have a scheduled time for each agency. Updated boxes can be identified by noting an outline of the star of life in the left upper corner of the box. If you have not heard from us about the time to exchange your boxes, please call the office. **The new protocols will go into effect November 1, 2001.** We are very excited to be implementing the new protocols. They are the result of countless hours of work over the last year.

### Terrorism

All of our lives have changed, including our EMS life. The anthrax scares are pouring in. However do your providers know how to deal with this? We all need to take some basic precautions:

1. Be on the alert for any suspicious scenes or calls. If in doubt do not enter.
2. If you respond to aid victims of a potential biological agent protect yourself. Do **NOT** transport the patients to the hospital without notification. The hospitals prefer you contact them prior to transport. They may wish to send a team to you, rather than you bringing the victims to the hospital.
3. Inventory your units for isolation equipment. You should have gowns, masks, and goggles, hair and boot covers along with N95 respiratory masks.
4. Make sure your cell phones are working. Local emergency management officials are encouraging little to no radio traffic during these incidents.
5. Ensure your units and buildings are secure.
6. Identification. We are still performing the regional ID badges. More than ever a photo ID is important for security. If your agency has not had badges taken then please contact us to arrange a time. You are certainly okay to use your own system.
7. In general be cautious. We have become so used to total security we are spoiled. Think different. Be aware of suspicious activity and people.

8. Review your agency resources and disaster response. If you had to respond to a mass casualty event would you be prepared, would you know what to do?

We are planning several training opportunities. Classes over the next 6 months on MCI, Incident Command and Triage will be offered. Terrorism awareness. We also will be offering a familiarization class on the biologic agents and how to handle these situations. There are many web sites out there with excellent information. Visit our web site for links to them at [www.csems.vaems.org](http://www.csems.vaems.org)

FYI we are working on a second disaster support trailer that would be housed in Rockbridge County. This will provide units from Rockingham, Augusta and Rockbridge and cover the I-81 corridor.

### Communications

If you had to respond mutual aid within the region would you be able to have radio communication with that jurisdiction? We have talked with each jurisdiction about a designated frequency to use if responding there for mutual aid. Each has given permission for use. Below are these frequencies. These are only to be used in mutual aid situations or other pertinent emergencies. We would strongly recommend you program these frequencies in your units if channel space is available.

Receive	Transmit	PL	Name/ID
460.525	465.525	156.7	Rockingham Tac. 1
453.600	458.600	103.5	Rockbridge Admin. North
453.825	458.825	210.7	Rockbridge Rescue North- optional
453.750	458.750	156.7	Augusta County 1
451.450	456.450	D205	Highland County Rescue
463.475	468.475	D172	Hot Springs Rescue
462.950	462.950	-----	Med 9 open PL simplex
462.975	462.975	-----	Med 10 open PL simplex

All of the above use the same PL for receive and transmit. Also each jurisdiction requests you have talk around capability on each of these as well.

I hope this helps. We hope that the above will at least improve communications in our region. There are certainly more frequencies in the region such as each city etc, however we wanted to at least have one frequency from each jurisdiction. Most units would not have enough channels to enter every jurisdiction frequency and may contribute to confusion. Note the last two are open PL non-repeated Med. 9 and 10 for response to other regions.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. We will relay information as we receive, as will your localities.

Sincerely,

Matt Painter