



PLANNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS

The efficient response of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to highway crash victims has proven to be an effective means for reducing fatalities. One of the most important components of an EMS system is communications. Over the years, serious problems have arisen in EMS radio communications that have jeopardized the timeliness and efficiency of EMS. Resolution of these problems transcends state boundaries and requires a national focus. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has begun work to develop a national consensus on remedies to several EMS communication problems in the United States and to plan for the impact of technological changes on EMS communications.

As part of this work, NHTSA sponsored *Planning Emergency Medical Communications*, developed by the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors. Volume One, the *State Level Planning Guide* contains general background information about a two tiered approach to EMS communications planning. First, the state plan identifies the communications goals and factors that need to be coordinated statewide to ensure compatibility. Second, local plans are developed to satisfy local system needs while providing compatibility with other emergency medical services within the state. Volume Two, the *Local and Regional Level Planning Guide*, gives more specific information and guidelines. It identifies five general categories of essential information.

- Public access to the system
- Dispatch and coordination of resources
- Medical control for communications
- Interagency communication
- Education of communications users

● ● ● CHAPTER HEADINGS ● ● ●

State Level Planning Guide Volume One

EMS Communication Needs
EMS Communication System Components
Public Access
Dispatch & Coordination
Medical Control Communications
State Communications Planning
EMS Communications History
Emergency Medical Communications Plan
EMS Radio Frequency Plan
The Regional System
Communications System Components
System Concepts

Local and Regional Level Planning Guide Volume Two

Writing the Regional EMS Plan Introduction
Defining the Regional Organization
Current EMS Communications Status
Analyzing Regional Requirements
Evaluating Regional Alternatives
Designing the Regional System
Developing Procurement Specifications
Developing a Funding Plan
Developing an Implementation Plan
Developing a Procurement Plan

HOW TO ORDER

For a copy of Volumes 1 (166 pgs) and 2 (93 pgs) of *Planning Emergency Medical Communications*, write to Emergency Medical Services Division, NHTSA, NTS-42, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or send a fax to (202) 366-7721.

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