



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Daniel Neaverth Jr.**  
Commissioner

## **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

45 Elm Street – Buffalo, NY 14203

**716 858-6578 – FAX 858-7937**

[www.erie.gov/emergency](http://www.erie.gov/emergency)

**TO: Erie County First Responders**

**FROM: Daniel Neaverth, Jr., Commissioner**

**DATE: March 6, 2013**

**SUBJECT: Revised MERS System Implementation Plan**

Over the last two years, Erie County has been working with the FCC and Industry Canada to obtain the required licenses to implement a UHF MERS System. Initially we received two (2) Rejection Notices from the FCC due to objections from Industry Canada. We then protested their rejections and conducted three (3) separate on-air tests. Subsequently the FCC granted licenses for the hospital base stations along with two (2) out of the six (6) MED Channels originally requested. No licenses were granted for mobile or portable radios. Erie County Emergency Services immediately petitioned the FCC to modify these licenses so that mobile and portable radios can operate on the new MED Channels. We eagerly await the FCC's response.

A temporary operational plan was developed that allowed us to comply with the narrow band mandate and permit the transition to UHF MED channels. This plan is being amended to improve communications while we work toward a permanent solution.

The procedure to contact hospitals will remain the same. Units transporting to the hospitals listed below will call MERS Control from a **mobile radio** on Erie County Interop 2 (425.325 MHz, DPL 065). Interop 2 will be continuously patched to MED 92 and allow for communications between ambulances and the hospitals listed below. Additionally, for units that have narrow band VHF radios, two (2) additional patches have been installed to improve communications. Units in the southern and central portion of Erie County can use 155.340 MHz to communicate with the hospitals. Units that are in northern Erie County and southern Niagara County can communicate with the hospitals on 155.325 MHz. (See attached **Revised MERS Channel Plan**)

Buffalo General Medical Center	*
Women and Childrens Hospital	<i>operational as of 1/4/13 *</i>
E.C.M.C.	<i>operational as of 12/26/12 *</i>
Kenmore Mercy Hospital	<i>operational as of 12/21/12 *</i>
Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	<i>operational as of 1/4/13 *</i>
Sisters of Charity Hospital	<i>operational as of 12/26/12 *</i>
Veterans Administration Medical Center	*
Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus	<i>operational as of 12/26/12 *</i>
Buffalo Mercy Hospital	<i>operational as of 12/21/12 *</i>
Mercy Ambulatory Care Center	<i>operational as of 12/21/12 *</i>
DeGraff Memorial Hospital	<i>operational as of 1/29/13 *</i>
Lake Shore Hospital	<i>operational on MED 2 and .340 as of 1/9/13</i>
Bertrand Chaffee Hospital	<i>operational on MED 2 as of 1/10/13</i>
* MERS .340 no longer operational at this facility	

***PLEASE NOTE: the use of portable radios to access the system on Interop 2 has proven to be unreliable. Use a mobile radio only to contact the Emergency Departments via Interop 2.***

Please note that units that are transporting to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital will contact them on Cattaraugus County MED 2 (RX: 463.025 CSQ / TX: 468.025 TPL: 192.8). Units that are transporting to Lake Shore Hospital will utilize Chautauqua County MED 2 (RX: 463.025 CSQ / TX: 468.025 TPL: 179.9).

**Please note that we have not been licensed for mobiles and portables on the repeater pair for MED 92. Units who have programmed their radios with this channel should not operate on MED 92. Therefore, effective immediately, Interop 2 will no longer be available for on-scene communications for other firematic operations.**

M.E.R.S. Control will continue to relay information to hospitals on behalf of the ambulances when they are unable to contact them directly. (*M.E.R.S. base stations on 155.340 MHz, 155.325 MHz and 155.715 MHz have been implemented in the narrow band format as of December 28, 2012*) All units are required to narrow band their mobile radios to comply with the current FCC mandate. The 155.340 MHz channel has also been identified by the NYS Bureau of E.M.S. as a primary EMS disaster communications resource.

We continue to work with the FCC, the frequency coordinator and our local partners to build out a comprehensive system. As this process continues, we will provide updates to make the first responder community aware of the progress.

cc Commissioner Burstein  
 E.M.S. Advisory Board  
 Disaster Preparedness Advisory Board  
 Fire Advisory Board



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<b>HOSPITAL</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>
Buffalo General Medical Ctr.	643		
Women and Childrens Hospital of Buffalo	937	Interop 2	155.325
E.C.M.C.	646	Interop 2	155.325
Kenmore Mercy Hospital	648	Interop 2	155.325
Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	652	Interop 2	155.325
Sisters of Charity Hospital	654	Interop 2	155.325
Veterans Administration Medical Center	655		
Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus	656	Interop 2	155.340
Buffalo Mercy Hospital	657	Interop 2	155.340
Mercy Ambulatory Care Ctr.	659	Interop 2	155.340
DeGraff Memorial Hospital	317	Interop 2	155.325
Lake Shore Hospital	721	Chautauqua County MED 2 (RX: 463.025 CSQ / TX: 468.025 TPL: 179.9)	155.340
Bertrand Chaffee Hospital	641	Cattaraugus County MED 2 (RX: 463.025 CSQ / TX: 468.025 TPL: 192.8)	