



STRAC

Monthly Radio Check Procedures

Ham Radio, 800 MHz SAFD radios, and MSV Satellite Radio (SatCom)

Updated March 9, 2006

The STRAC and EHDG, using the HRSA BHPP bioterrorism funding, has purchased Ham radios, 800 MHz SAFD radios, and Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) SatCom units for each Hospital Command Center (HCC) for hospitals within Trauma Service Area – P (TSA-P) (See list below).

A radio check of these devices will be performed monthly. This generally has occurred on the second Thursday of the month, starting at noon, but the date/time may change and will be announced on the EHDG email list if different.

Procedure:

1. Hospital should ensure the radios are on volumes are set appropriately. For the SatCom unit, either the microphone or the phone handset is active at any given time; the other device will say "sleep". Moving the active status from one device to the other can be done by pressing the CLR button for 2 seconds.
2. At noon, monitor the Ham radio (for urban hospitals), at 1215 hrs for the 800 MHz SAFD radio check, and at 1230 hrs for the SatCom unit.
3. MEDCOM will announce that the radio check is beginning and will start a roll call of the possible units that may be monitoring.
4. Clear text will be used at all times. 10-codes are not allowed.
5. The MSV units in the HCCs are programmed with STRAC-2 SatCom channel. It is labeled "STRC2" in the display on the microphone. STRAC-2 is a dedicated channel for TSA-P hospitals.
6. When calling another hospital or other radio unit on the various radios, the calling unit should utilize the "hey you, this is me" philosophy of radio etiquette.
For the radio check procedure, MEDCOM will call each facility and expect a reply.
MEDCOM: "Baptist Medical Center, this is MEDCOM"
BMC: "MEDCOM, Baptist Medical Center, loud and clear"
MEDCOM: "Christus Santa Rosa-downtown, this is MEDCOM"
CSR-DT "MEDCOM, Christus Santa Rosa, loud and clear"
7. MEDCOM will call only twice for each unit. If a unit misses the call, they can contact MEDCOM at the end of the radio check at 210-297-8601

8. Remember that you cannot talk on the SatCom unit until the 2-tone talk permit tones have beeped. This generally occurs .5 to 1 second after pressing the PTT key on the side of the microphone.
9. If you have problems with the test, or technical problems with the unit itself, please call MEDCOM at 210-297-8601 or 800-247-6428, ext 2
10. MEDCOM will monitor STRAC-2 SatCom channel at all times.

Thanks for your help with this process. Testing the equipment will make our hospital personnel more familiar with the equipment and ensure that it is in good working order when we need it.

For all radio traffic clear text is to be used. An example would be:

MEDCOM: "University Hospital, this is MEDCOM on STRAC-2"

UH HCC: "MEDCOM, this is University Hospital, go ahead"

MEDCOM: "University, please notify your ER personnel that we have reports of 80-100 victims enroute to your facility by private vehicle that may be contaminated from the incident"

UH HCC: "That's clear"

In the above example, UH HCC uses the term "Clear" to indicate they understand what was said. This term "Clear" should be used in place of "10-4" or other terms.

A list of clear text phrases is also being worked on and will be distributed once complete.