



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2018-054

May 9, 2018

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Dean Scott, Chief
Operations Section
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Scott".

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2018-054 – May Radio Rekey

Interoperability of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system requires that all subscribed radios have identical encryption keys to be able to communicate with each other. The System's LMR key is scheduled to change once every six months in November and May. The new US&R key is available in the afternoon of the first business Monday of the month (May 7, 2018). In order to align with this rekey, all task forces are required to rekey as soon as possible.

System Communications Technicians were previously trained in the operation of the Portable Digital Repeaters (PDR's), modems, Digital Voting Comparator (DVC), Key Management Facility (KMF) and Over-The-Air-Rekeying (OTAR). System task forces will need to have all radios on hand and a phone line that will allow the PDR to dial in to the KMF. The PDR line will need to be a plain old telephone service (POTS) line. Please note that only one of your repeaters was upgraded to work with the modem.

The FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) Key Management Facility (KMF) is operational 24/7 the rekey can be completed at your convenience. The current modem dial-in hunt group number is (877) 568-8858, so please remove all other numbers. Do not use former direct numbers; a direct number must be requested and MERS will provide the number and patch it at that time. If assistance is needed, please contact Frederick MERS support during normal business hours of 06:30 to 16:00 EST at: FEMA-FD-NRN-GROUP@fema.dhs.gov or (301) 874-4288.

Questions regarding this initiative may be directed to Lance Gilmore in the US&R Branch at: lance.gilmore@fema.dhs.gov or (202) 664-6495.

cc:

US&R Strategic Group
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