



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

ALAN LEVINE, SECRETARY

To: Acute Care Hospitals with Emergency Departments

From: Elizabeth Dudek, Deputy Secretary, Division of Health Quality Assurance

Date: February 17, 2005

Re: State of Florida Emergency Medical Services Communications Plan

To better prepare the state of Florida for a statewide disaster that may require the transportation of critically ill patients across multiple counties, the state has developed the State of Florida Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communications Plan. The plan, authorized by sections 395.103 and 401.015 F.S., stipulates that each hospital with an emergency department must have an onsite telecommunications device that meets the requirements of the EMS Communications Plan.

This telecommunications device is in addition to any other device(s) the hospital may utilize, has specific characteristics as described in the Plan, and is the only telecommunications device that a licensed hospital must have and maintain in accordance with state statutes. All licensed acute care hospitals with emergency departments were required to be in compliance with the EMS Communications Plan as of January 1, 2005.

To determine if compliance with the EMS Communications Plan has been met and is being maintained, the Agency will be verifying compliance as part of the hospital's annual fire/life safety survey. If it is found the hospital has not installed, operated, and maintained this telecommunications equipment as specified by the EMS Communications Plan, a deficiency will be cited by the fire/life safety surveyor and a plan of correction required.

If your facility does not currently have this equipment or if you do not know what the EMS Communication Plan requirements are, you should contact Mr. Randy Pierce, Communications Engineer as soon as possible. Mr. Pierce can be reached at the following:

Mr. Randy Pierce
Communications Engineer
EMS Communications
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 115
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0950
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