

MassDOT Interoperable Communications on Limited Access Roadways (I-90 / I-93 including their tunnels)

Supersedes: 01-19-12

Effective: 01-01-13

Boston EMS responds to incidents on limited access roadways under the control of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). These roadways include I-93 (north and south from the Somerville line to the Milton line), and I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike eastbound and westbound from the Newton line to the Revere line). The multiple ramps on and off of these roadways have the potential to delay an EMS response. The MassDOT Highway Operations Center (HOC) has multiple cameras and is able to visualize most portions of these roadways 24 hours a day. When aware of an incident, the HOC is able to provide timely information to responding BEMS units via TAC-3.

PROCEDURE:

1. The MassDOT Highway Operations Center will use the call sign "HIGHWAY OPERATIONS" when operating on interagency radio channels.
2. The MassDOT Highway Operations Center will monitor Boston EMS radio channel TAC-3 whenever notified that BEMS units are responding to an incident involving MassDOT roadways or tunnels.
3. Once dispatched to an incident on one of these roadways, Boston EMS Dispatch Operations should advise responding unit(s) to switch one radio (portable or mobile) to TAC-3 unless the channel is already in use.
4. The responding BEMS unit should notify Highway Operations on TAC-3 that they are responding in order to confirm the incident location and obtain information relative to the best access route to the incident.
 - 4.1. If multiple Boston EMS units are responding to an incident (ALS/BLS, BLS/Supervisor, etc) and one unit is already receiving updates from MassDOT Highway Operations, the other responding unit(s) may simply monitor the traffic.
5. Boston EMS Dispatch Operations should restrict further use of TAC-3 until the incident is secure. TAC-5 or TAC-7 are available for citywide tactical use.
6. Boston EMS Dispatch Operations will use the call sign "BOSTON EMS DISPATCH" when contacting Highway Operations by radio.

Example:

Highway Operations, Boston Ambulance 6 calling

Highway Operations is answering Boston Ambulance 6

Highway Operations, Boston Ambulance 6 responding Northbound I-93 at exit 26 for an MVA with Injuries

Boston EMS Policy and Procedure Manual

Boston Ambulance 6, Highway Operations Received, we have two State Police cruisers on scene confirming injuries. They are in the far left hand lane
Highway Operations from Boston Ambulance 6- we have that, our ETA is 3 minutes

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