

## United States Coast Guard

Supersedes:

Effective: 02-01-00

During the past several years, the facilities of the 1<sup>st</sup> District of the United States Coast Guard have upgraded their communications capabilities to include the insertion of the VHF frequency 155.280 MHz into the radios of most of their fleet of rescue boats, cutters and aircraft. With this frequency, the USCG is better able to handle medical emergencies that occur at sea by allowing them to contact area hospitals through Boston CMED.

During a natural or man-made disaster, Boston CMED may well be the only link between civilian rescuers and USCG units involved in disaster management. The USCG Air Station at Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth is now in the process of upgrading their airborne radio equipment to allow them to contact Boston CMED for ALS medical direction on the UHF frequencies. This will be accomplished by the use of low-power portable radios connected to external antennae on the aircraft.

1. Through an agreement between the USCG and the New England Medical Service Council, all CMEDs should be capable of assisting the Coast Guard during offshore search and rescue (SAR) missions. Boston CMED operators should be ready to give advice as to what types of medical facilities are best suited to certain types of injuries, but the final decision as to the immediate course of treatment and ultimate destination of the patient should be made by the physician on duty at the medical control facility nearest the Coast Guard unit.
2. Boston CMED operators should be aware of possible aircraft landing sites in the area, and be ready to alert local EMS agencies and/or fire departments to provide fire/crash/rescue support and ground transportation when needed.
3. When Boston CMED is contacted by a USCG unit, the radio traffic should be handled in a manner similar to that of other field providers.
4. A list of USCG facilities and telephone numbers will be maintained at both the Dispatch Operations Supervisor area and CMED consoles for reference as the need arises.

Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) Boston, MA	617-223-3644
Headquarters – Group Boston, MA	617-223-6978
Station Gloucester	978-283-0704
Station Newburyport	978-465-0731
Station Point Allerton (Hull)	781-925-0165

Interagency Coordination

Station Scituate	781-545-3800
Headquarters – Group Woods Hole, MA	508-548-5151
Station Brant Point (Nantucket)	508-228-0388
Station Cape Cod Canal (Sandwich)	508-888-0335
Station Chatham	508-945-0164
Station Menemsha (Martha’s Vineyard)	508-645-2611
Station Provincetown	508-487-0070
Station Block Island, RI	401-466-2411
Station Castle Hill (Newport, RI)	401-846-3675
Station Point Judith (Narragansett, RI)	401-783-3021
Headquarters – Air Station Cape Cod	508-968-5360