

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482*



Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

Section:	Communications
Title:	FCC Rules and Regulations – Part 90
Date:	
Revised:	05/2013

FCC Rules and Regulations – Part 90

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigns radio frequencies and enforces the operating practices of the radio spectrum. The FCC has developed Rules and Regulations to govern the operating of radio systems and has divided radio users into services for management purposes. Radio services are generally governed by Part 90 of the FCC Rules and Regulations, which sets the technical, operational, and administrative requirements for land radio systems, used for Public Safety purposes.

The following items in this section list the most important operating rules in the Public Safety Radio Services. They are not intended to cover all of the Rules or to quote them verbatim. The rules are subject to constant review and modification. The County of Augusta holds the licenses for all radios. Since the Commission can levy monetary fines and even suspend / revoke the licenses of radio system owners who violate its rules, Augusta ECC personnel should always keep these rules in mind.

1. Augusta ECC does not require their Employees to be licensed by the FCC. Station licensees are responsible for maintaining control over the stations licensed to them and for the proper functioning and operation of those stations.
2. Communications involving the safety of life or property are to be afforded priority by all licensees.
3. Only such calls as are authorized by the Rules governing stations in the Public Safety Radio Services may be transmitted. False calls, false or fraudulent distress signals, unnecessary and unidentified communications, obscene indecent and profane language is illegal.

4. Operators are generally required to listen to (monitor) the frequency on which they intend to transmit for a sufficient period of time to insure that their transmission will not cause harmful interference to others that may be using the frequency.
5. Each station must be identified by transmitting the FCC assigned call signs during each transmission or exchange of transmissions or at least once every 30 minutes of the operating period.
6. All radio transmissions must be restricted to the minimum practical transmission time.

IT IS UNLAWFUL:

To transmit superfluous signals, messages of communications of any kind on your radio transmitter

To use profane, indecent, or obscene language

To willfully damage or permit radio apparatus to be damaged

To cause unlawful or malicious interference with any other radio communication

To intercept and use or publish the contents of any radio message without the expressed permission of the proper authorities in your department

To make unnecessary or unidentified transmissions

To transmit without first making sure that the intended transmission will not cause harmful interference.

To make adjustments, repairs or alterations whatsoever to your radio transmitter. It is required by LAW that only a professional radio technician, holding a second class license or higher, may make adjustments and repairs.

To deny access to your radio equipment if a properly identified representative of the Federal Communications Commission asks to inspect it. The equipment must be made available for inspection at any reasonable hour.

To transmit a call signal, letter, or numerical which has not been assigned to your station car.

Upon conviction for any of the above offenses, the Communications Act of 1934, provided a penalty of not more than \$10,000 fine, or not more than two years in prison, or both.

Augusta ECC employees shall follow the above guidelines for all radio transmissions within the Communications Center.

Reference:

Federal Communications Commission

Augusta County Emergency Services Officer's Association – Website (2008)
Section 3: Communications

Related Content: