

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**MEMORANDUM FOR FILE**  
FEBRUARY 12, 2010

**In response to questions raised during the Board of Selectmen's  
Meeting held on February 1, 2010.**

**Identification of the problems**

Currently town wide emergency services (*Town*) operate on multiple frequencies within various bandwidths.

The *Town* operates on

- 33 MHz Low band (Fire and EMS)
- 153 MHz VHF band (Public Works, Emergency Management and Police),
- 450 MHz UHF band (Fire EMS and Emergency Management)
- 800 MHz UHF band (Connecticut State Police)

Present radio operation with the community utilizes multiple tower sites on Grassy Hill Road, Boughton Road and Mile Creek Road to maintain radio communications with the Valley Shore Emergency Communications Center in Westbrook CT<sup>1</sup>. While current service is adequate to the majority of the community, local topography places limitations on radio signals in certain areas<sup>2</sup>. These areas which experience "loss of signal", include portions of the lower beach areas, (White Sands to Point of Woods), portions of Four Mile River Road, parts of I- 95 and along portions of Route 156 near Tantummaheag Road, Coult Lane and Saunders Hollow Road. In addition, the local topography also limits the ability to communicate "vehicle-to vehicle" in various locations.

While the inclusion of a radio antenna system in the vicinity of the southern section of town will not correct *all* the deficient areas in the community, it would enhance radio communication along the beach area, Point of Woods, portions of Four Mile River Road and I-95.

In addition, an antenna site in this vicinity can become the cornerstone for further radio system upgrades and enhancements.

**What are planned corrective actions?**

Currently, the Old Lyme Fire Department and EMS have added a radio repeater system to their fire apparatus and responder vehicles which allows a signal "boost" to support "on-scene" communications when the apparatus is located at an emergency scene within the deficiency areas

In addition, enhancements have been made on these three tower sites in town to support this repeater system. While these corrective actions do provide some improvement for the Fire Department and EMS, they do not address the deficiencies with Public Works, Emergency Management or the Police.

To alleviate all of these deficiency areas and to enhance the ability to communicate with other emergency services agencies, conceptual engineering upgrades has been reviewed by Old Lyme emergency services providers and Valley Shore Emergency Communications Center. These conceptual upgrades include the ability to fill the voids

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<sup>1</sup> VSECCC function frequencies 33MHz, 450MHz

<sup>2</sup> NECS/OL-OEM Radio Propagation Study 2004

in current communications and apply the ability to enhance intra-operable communications between agencies.

**When will these actions be accomplished?**

As proposed tower locations are presented to the community, these sights are reviewed to determine their feasibility to enhance our communications needs. When a suitable antenna sight becomes available which meets the needs of emergency services, the pursuit of development for communication upgrades can continue.

Potential funding support from current State and Federal Grant programs, while less supportive now than in previous years, usually still provide assistance for communications equipment, though they generally do not support sole tower construction.