



■ **Exercise Roughrider and Radio Programming Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **If you don't have all the MOU's signed with all the authorized agencies, will you still received payment from the Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) for reprogramming costs?**

*Radios should not be reprogrammed until the MOU's are signed. This is an FCC regulation and programming a frequency that you are not licensed to have without an MOU is a violation of FCC rules. This could result in an FCC fine. Your radio vender and the jurisdiction are signing off that you are compliant with FCC regulations. You will not be reimbursed for reprogramming without the sign-off.*

2. **How do you narrow band a Simplex Radio Frequency? How do you narrow band a simulcast frequency and what does the emission designator look like?**

*Narrow banding has nothing to do with the frequency. Narrow banding is the radio capability to move from a 25 MHz bandwidth to a 12.5 MHz bandwidth. The radios that can accept narrow banding need to be programmed to do so. The radios themselves are programmed to meet this requirement of 12.5 MHz. Your license needs to reflect if you are emitting narrow band or digital.*

*This is what an emission designator looks like:*

<b>Emission Designator</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Emission Designator</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Emission Designator</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>20K0F3E</b>		<b>20K0F1D</b>		<b>11K2F1E</b>	
20K0	Emission Bandwidth	20K0	Emission Bandwidth	11K2	Emission Bandwidth
K	Decimal	K	Decimal	K	Decimal
F	FM	F	FM	F	FM
3	Analog	1	Digital	1	Digital
E	Voice	D	Data	E	Voice

3. **If you use a UHF portable radio to activate a vehicle repeater, is the reprogramming of the UHF eligible?**

*UHF frequencies required by FCC for narrow banding will be eligible for funding.*

**4. If you re-program a UHF portable or mobile, is that eligible?**

*Same response as question 3.*

**5. If a portable only has 3 bank capability, can you put bank 5 into bank 3?**

*Yes. The only mandate for portables is that they have channel 3 in the channel 3 spot. Any other programming is an agency's decision; however bank 5 programmed into portables is recommended.*

**6. Coordination of migration to narrow band; should we begin planning now?**

*The department's intent is to hire or contract a coordinator (narrow band coordinator) to meet with jurisdictions to coordinate efforts between public safety agencies and vendors to establish a statewide time-line for programming prior to the January 1, 2013 narrow banding deadline. Agencies have been strongly encouraged to upgrade their licenses for narrow banding compliance now.*

**7. Where is the funding available, for narrowband programming?**

*It is the intent of the department to apply for federal funding to aid with narrow banding programming.*

**8. When is the contractor available? If we don't coordinate soon will the vendors' charges go up due to workload? How many entities does your radio contractor have to narrowband, SWIC Plan programming??**

*It is the intent to hire/contract the narrow band coordinator within six months. The vendor costs are a local issue; negotiations with the vendors are encouraged. Local jurisdictions need to identify the number of entities that need to narrow band. The department's intent is to handle the process much like the process for bank 5 programming.*

**9. When are your local adjacent communities going to switch? Does this need to be coordinated?**

*The coordinator's duty is to attempt to establish time-lines with the vendors and the jurisdictions to make the process as seamless as possible and maintain interoperability.*

**10. What are the capabilities of the vendors?**

*Check with your local vendor, if the vendor does not meet your requirements, check with other vendors.*

**11. How many local and regional channels are in your radios that need to be changed?**

*All frequencies that are required under FCC narrow banding regulation.*

**12. A critical question for everyone is how many times will radios need to be re-programmed?**

*Twice; once with the new frequencies and once with narrow banding. The narrow banding process will be more seamless because we have just gone through the organization and programming for bank 5.*

**13. 152.0075, 157.450 and 163.250 MHz non-nb required paging frequencies.**

*Yes they are; they can stay wide band for paging; however 152.0075 is currently being used by the hospitals. That frequency will not be available because it is being used by several hospitals and EMS units. They will still need to be licensed to be used.*

**14. Will the grant be extended, due to programming issues and changes?**

*No. The funds will be de-obligated on May 31, 2011.*

**15. Will the EMS channel that is in the command position (155.340), be moved down to another position? This is the channel that is in most rural hospitals and they use it to communicate with ambulances that are enroute to the hospital. This would cause a large amount of traffic for command to listen to, if it is left in the present command position.**

*155.340 is established as the old "State 5" and serves as its intended use. In an incident when radio traffic may become congested the ICS Form 205 can reflect another frequency to be used to minimize traffic congestion on 155.340.*

**16. Do all locals need to have MOU's with State Radio to program 1-5 into their radios?**

*No. A document was issued early in 2006 authorizing the programming of channel 1-5 for public safety. If your vender requires a copy of that document, it may be found on the NDDDES website at:*

<http://www.nd.gov/des/uploads/resources/32/ndstateradioguidelines-01-23-06.pdf>.

**17. What happens to jurisdictions that do not reprogram before the exercise?  
What happens after May 31 if they are not reprogrammed?**

*If a jurisdiction is not reprogrammed by the exercise date, they have until May 31, 2011 to reprogram and conduct their own exercise at their own cost by June 30. Not all radios need to be reprogrammed prior to the exercise. A representative sample of public safety responders participating in the exercise will meet the exercise requirement; however the remainder of the units will need to be reprogrammed by May 31, 2011. Agencies that choose to not participate in the frequency management plan will not be eligible for future Homeland Security Grant funding.*

**18. What are the advantages of a local jurisdiction participating in Exercise Roughrider?**

*Exercise Roughrider is a time and cost saving event. Exercise Roughrider is a two part exercise meeting Goal 2 of the National Emergency Communications Plan exercise requirement of the Office of Emergency Communications. It provides an opportunity to test of the North Dakota Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan, the Frequency Management Plan, and the Regional Response Plan in a non-threatening environment in preparation for an event that requires interoperable communications and regional response. In addition, participating jurisdictions will meet their exercise requirements for 2011 and have their exercise reports completed according to the HSEEP Standard.*

**19. Are repeaters and base stations eligible for reprogramming using the grant funds or is it only mobiles and portables?**

*Repeaters and base stations are also eligible.*