



## Emergency Medical Services Council

Health Services Building – MC L963  
525 Portland Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1569

chd.ems@hennepin.us  
www.hennepin.us/ems



### Operations and System Communications Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 2026, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

### [Emergency medical services regulation | Hennepin County](#)

#### Draft Summary

Present	Absent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tony Martin (Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Primary Dispatch), Chair</b></li> <li>Mark Anderson, Ridgeview Ambulance Service</li> <li>Shaun White, Edina Fire EMS</li> <li>Dan Klawitter, West MRCC</li> <li>Charlie Sloan, Hennepin EMS</li> <li>Victoria Vadnais, Allina Health EMS Ambulance Dispatch</li> <li>Tammy Doll, Hennepin County COPE</li> <li>Peter Tanghe, North Memorial Health Ambulance</li> <li>Brent Custard, North Memorial Health Ambulance</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kevin Miller, Allina Health EMS</li> <li>Vacant seat, Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association</li> </ol>
Guests	Staff
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tyler Lupkes, MESB Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair and HEMS Battalion Chief</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristin Mellstrom</li> </ol>

## 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order with a quorum by Tony Martin at 9:30 a.m.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion: Approval of today's agenda and previous meeting notes.**

**Action: Approved unanimously.**

## 3. Old Business

### **A. Discussion: EMS Council Communication Policy flow chart (Attachment 1)**

Discussion included clarification of who is responsible for recording communications (Section III, B). EMS Providers must follow the State Chapter 144E requirements for recordings. For the EMS Council, West MRCC will also maintain the following recordings:

- West MRCC talkgroups are recorded and saved for at least 180 days in Revcord.
- MRCC patient reports are saved in the Zipit database for 18 months.

### **B. Motion: Adopt - EMS Council Communication Policy flow chart – Approved Unanimously**

Discussion

- Decision to remove the 30-minute guideline and replace it with guidance from EMS Providers' protocols and/or call processing to determine if a call is emergent
- Mutual aid ALS, BLS, co-response (or alternative response if allowed by state statute) is an acceptable response for an emergent call if:
  - The call has been processed through MPDS or another EMS Council-approved system and/or it follows the EMS Provider's protocols
  - The Provider does not have an ALS ambulance available to respond to the call at that time
- About 10 years ago, the five 911 EMS Providers agreed on a set of ECHO level priority responses based on PNCs and MPDS at the time; the list was given to all the west metro primary PSAP. Dan will bring that list to the next meeting for a review and revisions, if needed, then it could be sent to PSAPs again.
- "Resource" will replace "ambulance" to allow for more types of alternative responses as those become integrated into the 911 response system

## 4. New Business

### A. Hennepin County (HC) Heat Resilience Plan Workgroup Update – presented by Tyler Lupkes, MESB Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair and Hennepin EMS Battalion Chief

- Plan was led by HC Emergency Management and HC Public Health
- Objectives related to EMS that the Heat Resilience Workgroup is seeking feedback on from EMS Providers:
  - Would partnerships with businesses to get free access to ice for ice bath shrouds be helpful or feasible (ambulances would have to carry a cooler of ice)
  - An invitation for a smaller group to discuss this further will be sent out by staff to the 911 EMS Operations Committee members. Please read below for awareness of this plan and to determine who could participate to represent each of the five 911 EMS Providers in HC.
  - **Hennepin County Heat Resiliency Plan - Emergency Preparedness & Response Goals, Objectives, and EMS Strategies:**
    - Goals:
      - Enhance baseline heat resilience for all Hennepin County residents through expanded access to cooling centers and resilience hubs.
      - Increase heat awareness and protective behaviors to reduce burden on emergency responders during periods of extreme heat.
      - Build capacity among EMS and other first responders to prepare for and respond to heat-related illness
    - Objectives:
      - Expand cooling center and resilience hub networks.
      - Reduce barriers to accessing cooling centers and resilience hubs.
      - Expand communication about heat events and heat safety.
      - Use data to inform emergency preparedness and response protocols, staffing, and resource needs.

- Expand access to cooling resources for residents experiencing homelessness.
- Increase heat safety at Hennepin County and City events and public schools.
- Expand the capacity of Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to provide cooling resources and information and address heat-related illness. (*Strategies to achieve objective below*)
- Develop a protocol to increase EMS staff and trucks during heat events, based on data dashboard information regarding expected needs.
- Partner with Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to offer transportation to cooling centers and resilience hubs for residents who need cooling resources but do not need to go to the emergency room.
- Develop partnerships with local businesses to improve EMS access to ice, similar to Boston EMS's partnership with Dunkin Donuts (open 24/7) to provide free access to ice whenever needed to restock ambulances for ice bath shrouds. Consider local partners with expanded hours, such as Holiday Station Stores.
- Update EMS (paramedics, fire, and police) on current protocols for excessive heat assessment and treatment, including training for emergency response teams about proper medical coding for encounters related to heat to improve tracking of heat-related health impacts and training for medical examiners on heat-related mortality.
  
- **Links:**
- [NAEMSP Consensus Statement - Prehospital Care of Exertional Heat Stroke](#)
- [Korey Stringer Institute](#)

5. Next Meeting: June 14, 2026 at 09:30 online

6. Adjournment: 10:38 a.m