

Section 5.6: Console Operations

Texas A&M EMS currently operates a Motorola MCC 7500 console for radio operations as part of the Texas Wide Area Radio Network (TxWARN) Project 25. This console allows the dispatcher to operate and monitor multiple channels at the same time, as well as identify which units are transmitting when programmed to do so.

There are three tabs on the main screen which house three different groups of channels. Not all channels that are on the portable and handheld radios are available on the console.

Whichever channel has a green outline is the primary channel selected on that console. It plays out of one speaker while all other channels will play out of a separate speaker. The foot peddle, the talk button on the microphone, or the large lightning bolt near the top of the screen can be pressed to transmit on this channel.

The lightning bolt on any channel can be used to transmit on that channel, regardless of whether it is the primary channel or not. This can be used to transmit on a channel without switching to it.

Each channel can have a different volume set for it and each speaker can also be adjusted separately. All Texas A&M EMS channels should be set to a volume of 7, while all other channels should be set to 2, except TAM PD 1 and CCS FD 1, which should be set to 3.

During the day, the console speakers should remain turned up. At night, the speakers may be turned down to half volume to allow for sleeping with minimal interruption. However, the dispatcher is still responsible for monitoring traffic of surrounding agencies.

A patch can be applied between two separate channels so that anything transmitted on one is also transmitted on the other.

Multiple channels can be transmitted on at the same time by dispatch by creating a multi-select list and including all of the desired channels.

Instant Retrieval is a tool that can be used to more quickly replay radio traffic on the green outlined channel. It will log traffic for 72 hours. At no time should a dispatcher listen to the traffic of another dispatcher, unless approved by the Communications Coordinator or the dispatcher who took the call.