



**FEMA**

## **US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-028a**

May 3, 2016

**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Representatives

**FROM:** Dean Scott, Chief  
Operations Section  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

**SUBJECT:** US&R General Memorandum 2016-028a – (Revised) May Radio Rekey

**This revision postpones the May US&R Radio Rekey to June due to real world operations, exercises and carrier circuit issues affecting Frederick MERS.**

Interoperability of the FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System requires that all subscribed radios have identical encryption keys to be able to communicate with each other. The System's key is scheduled to change once every six months in May and November. The new US&R key **will be** available in the afternoon of the first business Monday of the month (**June 6, 2016**). In order to align with this rekey, all task forces are required to rekey no later than **June 15, 2016**.

System Communications Technicians were previously trained in the operation of the Portable Digital Repeaters (PDR's), modems, Digital Voting Comparator (DVC), Key Management Facility (KMF) and Over-The-Air-Rekeying (OTAR). System task forces will need to have all radios on hand and a phone line that will allow the PDR to dial in to the KMF. The PDR line will need to be a plain old telephone service (POTS) line. Please note that only one of your repeaters was upgraded to work with the modem. The FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) Key Management Facility (KMF) is operational 24/7 so you can complete the rekey at your convenience. The current modem dial in hunt group number is (877) 568-8858. Please remove all other numbers. Do not use former direct numbers; a direct number must be requested and MERS will provide the number and patch it at that time. If assistance is needed, please contact Frederick MERS support during normal business hours of 0630 to 1600 EST at [FEMA-FD-NRN-GROUP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FD-NRN-GROUP@fema.dhs.gov) or (301) 874-4288.

Questions regarding this initiative may be directed to Lance Gilmore in the US&R Branch at: [Lance.Gilmore@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Lance.Gilmore@fema.dhs.gov) or (202) 664-6495

cc:

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