May 12, 2020

**Activity Number:** 

SFJ

Location:

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, One State Rd, Stow, MA

Time:

0900-1300

This forum is eligible for credit toward Fire Chief Credential.

## SENIOR FIRE OFFICER FORUM

**DEMYSTIFYING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND** 

INTEROPERABILITY: WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

Presented By: Representatives from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Every day, first responders across the country encounter situations that reinforce how critical emergency communications and interoperability are to public safety. The idea that emergency personnel only want to "push a button and have it work" is an antiquated and dangerous notion. This soup-to-nuts course is designed to eliminate the mysteries of emergency communications and interoperability.

The session will begin with a basic overview of land-mobile radio (LMR) communications designed for all experience and knowledge levels. We will cover industry buzz terms, like simplex and duplex operations, conventional and trunked radio networks, analog and digital signals.

The session will then move on to a review of basic interoperability and how different resources can fill gaps during emergency and planned events. We will discuss available interoperable resources in the Commonwealth and how to access and plan for use of these resources. The session will cover how communications fits into ICS, and why recognizing the need to request communications support early and often is critical to an incident's success.

Finally, we will break down the role of senior leadership in an agency as it pertains to emergency communications, covering topics such as agency communications planning, technology and responsible purchasing, channel planning and radio programming, and system funding and sustainment.

