

# MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

## A Division Of The Department of Public Safety

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Public Information and Education Division - PO Box 568 - Jefferson City, MO 65102

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **EMPHASIS: New Radio Channel Promotes Communication Among Agencies**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol announces the creation of the "MTAC" public safety radio channel. MTAC is a Missouri tactical channel available to all public safety-related agencies for the purpose of allowing emergency personnel to communicate wirelessly during critical incidents or other events when inter-agency communication is necessary. Fire, police, EMS, and local government will have access to MTAC regardless of their department function, geographic jurisdiction, or communications infrastructure.

MTAC comes as a result of work done by members of the Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee and the Missouri Security Council, action groups formed by Governor Bob Holden following the September 11th terrorist attacks. Until this time, this broad level of coordinated radio communications was largely absent in Missouri and many states across the nation. The ability of emergency personnel to communicate wirelessly, in real time, and on demand (or "interoperability") is beneficial to communities during natural disasters, emergency situations, and whenever multiple public safety agencies need to communicate.

The MTAC Common Channel is in the VHF 150 MHz frequency band most commonly used by public safety agencies in Missouri. It can be implemented easily into most existing public safety radio equipment. While MTAC provides baseline capacity, it is only the first step and not a comprehensive solution.

MTAC is a product of the partnership including The Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee, The Missouri Department of Public Safety, The Missouri Office of Homeland Security, and The Missouri State Highway Patrol. Agencies that desire to implement this channel must simply sign a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee to begin using the channel. Copies of the memorandum can be obtained at [www.SEMA.gov/pubs.htm](http://www.SEMA.gov/pubs.htm). For more information, call the Missouri State Highway Patrol Communications Division at 573-751-3747 or Public Safety Frequency Coordinator Stephen Devine at 573-526-6105.

“This is a tremendous step for wireless communications in Missouri,” said Governor Holden.  
“MTAC is a prime example of innovation and utilization of resources which create partnerships within public safety agencies that allow them to better serve the citizens of our state”.