



## Chapter 18 TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

### 18.1 FCC Licensing

- 18.1.1 NSP patrols are required to comply with applicable regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Additionally, the National Ski Patrol has established certain policies and procedures relating to the operation of radio communications systems by its registration units.
- 18.1.2 No NSP patrol may operate radio equipment without a valid license issued to ski area management or to the National Ski Patrol System, *Incorporated*, the corporate entity eligible under FCC rules for the Public Safety frequency pool.
- 18.1.3 In 1987, the FCC determined that local NSP registration units are subunits of a national corporation, the National Ski Patrol System, *Incorporated*. NSP registration units, as subunits, have no separate legal identity or status in regard to radio licensing. Therefore, radio licenses are issued to the national organization and then assigned to each NSP patrol.
- 18.1.4 No NSP registration unit is permitted to hold a radio license in its own name (e.g., Snowflake Ski Patrol). Such licenses must be surrendered to the National Telecommunications Adviser for modification. There is no charge for the modification. Licenses not so modified are subject to administrative revocation by the FCC.
- 18.1.5 The National Ski Patrol neither condones nor permits the illegal operation of radio systems by its NSP patrols. Operation of radio transmitters in the United States without a valid license, where one would otherwise be required, is a violation of Section 301 of Title 47 of the Code of the United States Code (47USC301). The Federal Government may impose large financial penalties for unlicensed operation.
- 18.1.6 The national office maintains and automatically renews licenses currently on file.
- 18.1.7 Licenses issued to the National Ski Patrol and assigned to a specific NSP

patrol usually authorize the use of more than one channel. A frequency restriction form accompanies each NSP license, providing specific information on what type of communication may be conducted on each channel of a multi-frequency license.

- 18.1.8 New license applications are made by the NSP on behalf of a patrol. A form is available from the National Telecommunications Adviser for this purpose. While there is no FCC license fee for Public Safety licenses, fees may apply for frequency coordination. Such fees are payable to the frequency coordinator (an entity designated by the FCC to make frequency assignment recommendations). At the present time, frequency coordination for EMS applications is a joint venture of the Intl. Assn. of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the Intl. Municipal Signal Assn. (IMSA).

### 18.2 FCC Rules and Regulations

- 18.2.1 The operation of radio systems in the United States is subject to regulation by the FCC.
- 18.2.2 The holders of all radio licenses must have a copy of the FCC's current regulations. The NSP, as a licensee, has a copy, and any area management that is licensed should have a copy.
- 18.2.3 Only official NSP communications are authorized. Profanity and communications of a personal nature are prohibited.
- 18.2.4 Radio stations must identify themselves by call sign, which appears on each license. Identification must be made during each transmission or exchange of transmissions, or every 15 minutes for the Business /Industrial frequency pool or every 30 minutes for the Public Safety frequency pool during periods of continuous operation.
- 18.2.5 If a base station is authorized, a photocopy of the license must be posted at the control point, which is generally where the dispatcher sits. A file copy must be kept, even for mobile-only or portable-only systems. The original license document for radio licenses issued to the National Ski Patrol is kept at the national office.



18.2.6 If a notice of violation is received from the FCC, the National Telecommunications Adviser or the national office must be notified immediately so an appropriate response can be prepared in a timely manner. Generally a response must be filed with the FCC within 10 days of the date of the FCC's notice of violation.

### 18.3 **NSP License Frequency Restriction**

18.3.1 An FCC license is valid for ten years and may be renewed indefinitely. The original copy of the license is kept on file at the NSP national office. Copies of the FCC license are sent to the appropriate Division representative, as well as the Patrol Director or Patrol Representative.

18.3.2 If the FCC license authorizes more than one frequency, different restrictions may apply to the use of each channel.

18.3.3 An NSP license frequency restriction form is attached to each license to indicate any restrictions.

18.3.4 A ski patrol may use frequencies assigned to area management and vice versa, providing there is a letter of agreement between both parties. However, while any communications relating to ski area operations may be conducted on area management (business) frequencies, only ski patrol-related communications may take place on ski patrol channels.