

To whom it may concern,

In response to the proposed rule, I support the rule to the extent that it may have the ability to help in emergency situations. The ability for officers to communicate across different agencies through the same channels will make response times, as well as recovery, much faster. In many cases, I believe that the biggest setback in handling emergencies would be communication struggles. If all agencies could communicate on the same channels, they would be able to coordinate assistance efforts in a much more efficient manner. The ability for railroad officers to communicate on the same channel as medical responders would allow all parties involved to be on the same page. There would not be any question as to what is happening or where officers need to respond.

However, there is also chance for confusion or miscommunication. What if there are multiple agencies talking about different emergencies on the same channel? That could cause confusion among responders and potentially cause more harm than help. There would have to be specific policies and procedures as to how to communicate over the channels. For the communication to be efficient, there would need to be a coded system to assure that all emergencies be handled properly. Also, I believe that officers, across all agencies, would need to be trained and certified before having the authority to communicate on such channels. The smallest miscommunication could have devastating consequences. One way to prevent miscommunications would be the effort to create a specific channel for all agencies to use in an event of emergency. This would be the strictest way to handle the proposal, but could have the best results and prevent potential mistakes.

In conclusion, I support the proposed rule but would like to see regulation throughout, just to ensure safety of all individuals involved. Many perspectives and outcomes should be taken into consideration in the decision process of this proposed rule and should not be taken lightly. Thank you for taking the time to read and evaluate my comments on this proposal. I understand that you will arrive at the best outcome possible.

Thanks,

Will Crocker