



METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

The Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) supports public safety for the residents of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington Counties. This support includes oversight and management of the metropolitan portion of the ARMER radio system; oversight and management of the regional 9-1-1 network and system; and coordination of the regional EMS system.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

9-1-1: To ensure that the state's 9-1-1 system delivers accurate and timely service that Minnesota residents expect, the MESB supports:

- Adequate funding to support county and municipal operation of public safety answering points (PSAPs) or 9-1-1 centers and the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1, including funds for on-going GIS data maintenance;
- Funding assistance to provide PSAP operational resiliency systems, such as computer aided dispatch information sharing;
- Updates to the 9-1-1 statutes (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 403) to reflect 9-1-1 network and operational requirements in a Next Generation 9-1-1 system;
- Changes to the employment classification of public safety telecommunicators from clerical to protective services occupations; and
- Adoption of training requirements and a certification process for public safety telecommunicators.

Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER): To ensure that all first responders and others engaged in public safety projects can communicate in a secure and reliable manner, the MESB supports:

- Adequate funding to support implementation of Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) level encryption, including radio purchase and programming costs;
- Funding to support the purchase and installation of distributed antenna systems in K-12 schools to support ARMER penetration into the schools in the event of active assailant situations; and
- Adequate planning and funding to support the purchase, installation, upgrades, and maintenance of the ARMER system by all system owners.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): To ensure the administration of a coordinated EMS system in the metropolitan region, the MESB supports:

- Long-term, sustainable funding for regional EMS programs, including funds to augment the declining funds derived from seatbelt fines; and
- Funding systems to ensure closest unit is dispatched regardless of Primary Service Areas (PSAs) to critical 9-1-1 calls.

Regional Emergency Communications Boards/Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB): To ensure the administration of a statewide emergency communication system, the MESB supports:

- Open transparent, and robust governance by the SECB over public safety communications systems, including changes to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 403; and
- Funding to provide dedicated staff to the SECB.

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Metropolitan Emergency Services Board has adopted the following positions as its legislative agenda for the 2026 legislative session.

- **Unified 9-1-1 Center Awareness Platform Funding:** Secure funding to procure a unified 9-1-1 center awareness platform that allows 9-1-1 centers to share 9-1-1 call information in real time without needing to call another 9-1-1 center, thereby saving time and resources during emergent and high-call volume events.
- **Support Investments in ARMER System:** Build on the \$4 million allocated in 2023 and dedicate additional state dollars towards grants for the purchase of public safety radios consistent implementation statewide of AES Encryption and ARMER infrastructure.
- **Ensure Dedicated Ongoing Funding for EMS Delivery:** Support funding to implement an EMS Mutual Aid Platform to allow for dispatching of closest units in response to critical 9-1-1 calls, such as cardiac arrests and strokes. Support dedicated ongoing, increased funding for EMS regional programs.
- **Digital Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping for School Facilities – Maintenance Funding:** Secure ongoing funding to maintain digital geographic information system (GIS) school maps created with a 2024 \$7 million legislative appropriation from the 9-1-1 special revenue fund, to ensure schools, law enforcement, and 9-1-1 call centers have accurate mapping to improve emergency response, caller location, and facility access when responding to schools.
- **Funding for Stop the Bleed Initiative for Schools:** Funding to procure equipment and training for implementing a Stop the Bleed initiative in Minnesota schools.