

County Communications Coordinator Status Update

Presented to Regional Fire
Authority, 5/3/07

Meet and Greet

- All completed except four agencies.
- Surveyed items range from communications needs, MDC's, radio programming, Fire Frequency Sharing, and RMS.
- Will prepare a report of findings for all agencies once meet and greets are complete.

CP-90 Status Update

- At Burton's for final installation of equipment.
- Once returned, will be taking pictures and documenting all procedures for operations manual.
- Once complete, will be making CP-90 available to agencies for training, testing, etc.

Cal Fire/Stanislaus County Frequency Use Agreement

- Agreement with Oakdale Rural and Cal Fire from 1978 exists.
- FIRESCOPE had prepared plan in 1991 and submitted for Stanislaus County. Plan was never completed.
- Currently working with Cal Fire SCU and Cal Fire TCU to establish agreement for all agencies within Stanislaus County.

Fire Frequency Sharing

- Meeting with all agencies that will be part of the system.
- Addressing concerns and questions that departments may have.
- Providing the support that agencies will need to implement Fire Frequency Sharing.
- Latest go live date is November 7, 2007.

Radio System Update

- Working to establish testing procedures with Digital Radios.
- This will identify risks and other issues to be worked out going to a digital radio system.
- Testing to be performed with the recommend IAFC testing procedures (see www.salidafire.com for information).

CAD System

- Reviewing RFP.
- Making suggestions for contract changes.
- Verifying Fire Authority's needs are presented within the requirements of the CAD system.
- Participating in CAD working groups.

MDC Testing

- Meeting with various MDC end users.
- Performing various diagnostic tests on coverage and service.
- Gathering statistics on MDC disconnects and service disruptions.
- Will gather information and take forward to service provider to seek higher level of customer service.

Regional RMS System

- Working with Stanislaus County Fire Prevention to organize demonstrations.
- Support of a Regional RMS system has been unanimous from the field.
- Receiving quotes and working with vendors.

Conclusion

- For information, visit www.solidafire.com and go to Communications section.
- Findings from Communications Surveys will be presented at next RFA meeting.
- Introduce SR-911.
- Questions and Comments.



DIGITAL RADIO TEST PROTOCOL

The following is a set of instructions to test a *digital portable radio* for interference in the presence of common fireground noises:

Test A:

1. Use a portable radio on a *digital channel*. Please identify the radio type.
2. One firefighter will operate the power tools listed below at full throttle while another firefighter stands directly next to the one operating the power tool with the portable radio (approximately 3 feet between the radio and the device, apparatus and/or tool).
3. A third firefighter, in a remote location, will monitor the radio transmission.
4. Once the power tool is operating at full throttle, the firefighter with the portable radio will repeat, "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
5. The firefighter monitoring radio traffic will document the audio quality for each test as:

I – intelligible, able to understand the voice audio message

U – unintelligible, unable to understand the voice audio message

Record the mode as:

D – digital

A – analog

Use the following power tools, devices or apparatus as appropriate. We recommend you test as many sources as possible:

K12 circular type saw

Chain Saw

PASS Device

High Apparatus engine idle

If your department uses Scott SCBA, perform the test while the vibra-alert is activated in low air mode (in a safe environment).

Test B:

Repeat Test A using the same radio in the *analog mode*.



IAFC Seeks Input on Digital Radio Problem

Mar 20, 2007 6:11 PM

The International Association of Fire Chiefs is soliciting member input to a reported problem. The organization has learned of firefighters experiencing unintelligible audio communications while using a digital two-way portable radio when operating in close proximity to the low-pressure alarm of their SCBA. In addition, other common fireground noise, including powered tools, apparatus and PASS devices, may affect voice intelligibility.

This is an industry-wide issue and is not specific to any one manufacturer's radios. There are indications that any digital voice communication product using parametric voice encoders could be affected by this problem. The problem is not related to any specific radio spectrum, as it is not a frequency of operation issue, or a particular communication standard.

Due to these reports, the IAFC board of directors has asked the Communications Committee to form a working group to work with other IAFC committees and sections and other appropriate organizations to investigate and provide recommendations to address this concern. The specific focus of the group will be to:

- Fully understand the facts and identify potential solutions that may be required.

- Facilitate industry collaboration among the communications equipment manufacturers to explore options to mitigate or eliminate this concern.

- Recommend best practices for digital portable radio use on the fireground.

The IAFC is members to contact the Communications Working Group if you have experienced similar issues. Go to www.iafc.org/digitalproblem to learn more about the tests you can conduct to provide the working group the information it needs to study the issue and make recommendations.



Find this article at:

http://www.firechief.com/news/iafc_radio03202007/index.html



Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Digital Problem Working Group

FROM: Steering Committee

DATE: April 16, 2007

RE: Working Group Meeting – May 8, 2007

The Digital Problem Working Group will convene its first meeting on May 8, 2007 at the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department located at 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Fairfax County, VA 22027. Lunch will be served in the meeting hall at the firehouse at Noon; the meeting will begin at 12:30pm with adjournment no later than 5pm. This will be an open meeting to discuss all aspects of the digital radio problem and to put forward ideas for possible solutions, best practices, and next steps.

A block of rooms has been set aside for May 7th and May 8th at the Hilton Garden Inn Tysons Corner at a rate of \$199 when you mention IFC code. Call the hotel for reservations at 877-782-9444. The hotel is located at 8301 Boone Blvd. in Vienna, VA 22182 about two miles from the firehouse. A shuttle service is available. Enter the meeting hall from the rear parking lot of the firehouse.

The block of rooms will be held until April 23rd. Deal directly with the hotel for accommodations.

For those that cannot participate in person, a conference bridge telephone connection will be available. The call-in number will be provided prior to the meeting.

A technical paper is being prepared for the working group to better understand the issues. A list of members of the working group will be provided to all working group members in the near future. A download of the test results will also be made available.

A steering committee has been formed to guide the activities of the working group. The members are:

Charles Werner, Charlottesville FD Chairman
Doug Aiken, Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid
Danny Kistner, Garland FD
Ott Huber, Loveland-Symmes FD
Alan Caldwell, IAFC
David Finger, NVFC
Rich Duffy, IAFF
John Oblak, TIA
John Powell, NPSTC
Steve Lawrence, FEMSA

You should also be aware that the Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring a two day Industry Roundtable on May 9th & 10th in Washington, DC. The purpose of the roundtable is to create the opportunity for industry and the emergency response community to collaboratively address interoperable and communications technology issues. To register for the Roundtable go to the Safecom website at www.safecomprogram.gov and click on Events.