



Sullivan County

Public Safety

Communications Upgrade

Project Update

Progress continues on the public safety communications project with construction of the first two communication towers at Tennenah Lake and Thunder Hill scheduled for completion by the end of July. Bids for the remaining towers were recently opened and should be awarded shortly so that construction may continue through summer and fall of this year, weather permitting.

The overall project timeline calls for tower construction to continue on the remaining sites through the end of 2014. Assuming all goes as planned, Microwave equipment linking all the towers sites together would then commence in the spring of 2015 followed by installation of the Motorola radio equipment over the summer months. Once completed, the system would be optimized and extensively tested over a period of weeks and months.

Given this timeline (and the hopes that everything goes smoothly) training, migration and final cut-over to a new sys-

tem would likely occur sometime in 2016.

As you can see there is still plenty of work ahead. Over the next 2-3 months we will reengage the communications workgroup comprised of fire, EMS, law enforcement, DPW and 911 dispatch representatives to review and develop a draft operations guide for the new radio system to best meet the needs of all users.

Lastly, once the County finalizes the design specifications with Motorola, we can begin to look at co-operative equipment purchasing opportunities in the form of County bids and/or pursuing grants which could be utilized to assist individual departments with equipment procurement.

Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months on the progress as we all look forward to a much improved communications system!



Planning ahead

Many have asked, and the rumor is true! In an effort to supplement agency's equipment needs for the upcoming radio system, the Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management has begun taking advantage of grant funding to purchase Motorola Minitor pagers for future distribution. To date the County has procured approximately 250 MinitorV (2 channel) pagers and approximately 250 MinitorVI (5 channel) pagers along with the ability to program them in-house. The County will continue to seek every possible grant funding source to not only build the core system, but also continue to seek funding that will help us help departments offset their end-user equipment needs.

Preliminary Design Overview

With the radio project beginning to get off the ground, there have been some questions on the preliminary channel plans of the future radio system.

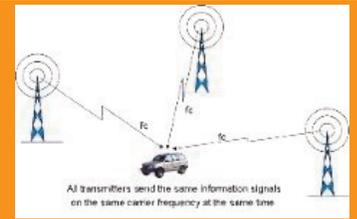
At the onset of this project, a communications workgroup was formed with representatives from the fire, EMS, law enforcement, 911 dispatch and DPW communities. This group worked directly with County officials and our consulting firm, Blue Wing Services, to review the feedback received during the needs assessment phase and begin to lay a foundation for the future communications system. To that end, the group had developed a preliminary channel plan to provide our consulting firm some high level guidance in planning for the new radio system. Moving forward, together with feedback from the various disciplines, this workgroup will be instrumental in providing guidance for the final design and operational plan of the new radio system.

The preliminary system channel plan includes the following — all on VHF high-band:

- Fire & EMS paging (combined)
- Fire Communications
- EMS Communications
- Countywide Police Communications
- County DPW
- Town highway
- Sheriff's Office
- Wide-area tactical repeaters
- National/State VCAL, UCAL, ICAL
- National/State VTAC, UTAC, ITAC
- 6-8 on-scene tactical frequencies (Similar to battalion frequencies today)

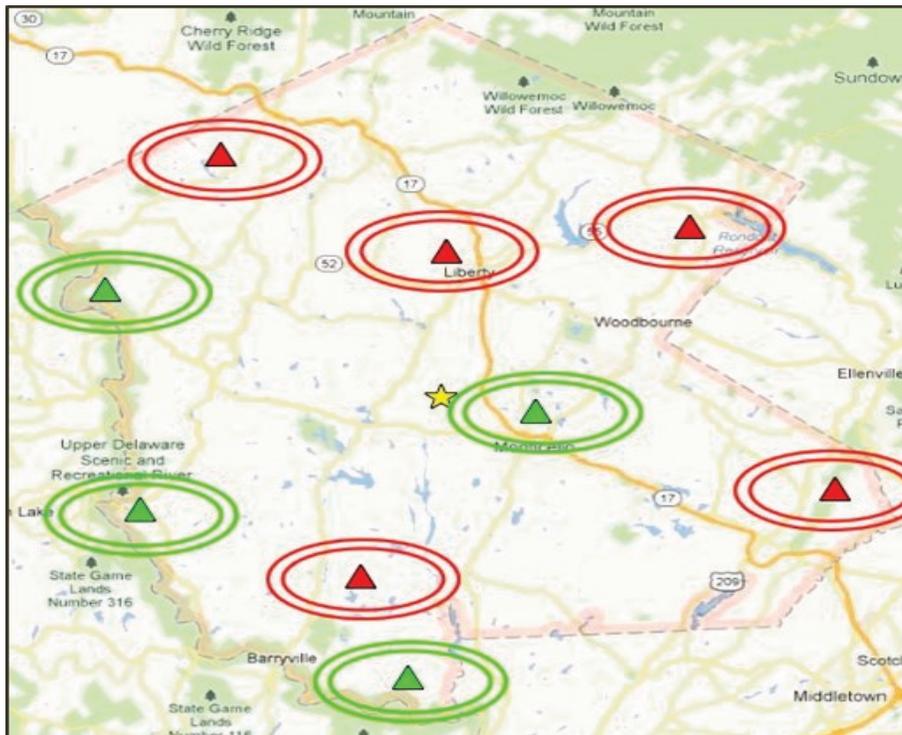
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 During the transition period, the existing fire, EMS and dispatch channels will remain in operation for a period of time to allow migration.

WHAT IS SIMULCAST?



The primary paging and communications channels of the new system will feature simulcast. Simply defined, the system will take any message it receives and instantly rebroadcast it from all towers in the network at the same time. So gone will be the days of being across the county at work or at a BBQ and not being able to receive your page because you are out of your district. This will also enable simulcast of field communications across the county as well.

Proposed Tower Sites



Red = Existing sites | Green = New sites

Many of the existing sites (noted in red) are being rebuilt to meet the loading demands of the new system, and in many cases are being rebuilt taller and stronger to provide better coverage and support future expansion if necessary. Sites in green are being added to improve coverage.

Shelters are also being replaced to provide secure, climate controlled facilities that will support the new equipment and also future growth potential.

