

Mifflin County Alert & Advisory Board

February 18th, 2010

Meeting Notes

1. Board Membership

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fname</u>	<u>Lname</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present</u>
EMA	Philip	Lucas	Mifflin County OPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
911	Brian	Fleegal	Mifflin County 911	<input type="checkbox"/>
911 Staff	Shari	Spicher	Mifflin County 911	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
911 Staff	James	Carter, Jr.	Mifflin County 911	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LE	Scott	Mauery	MCRPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LE	Craig	Weston	GTPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire	Bill	Fike	Highland Park Fire Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire	Dan	Aumiller	Reedsville Fire Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire	Terry	Beers	Junction Fire Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire	Scott	Hasson	City Hook & Ladder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMS	Rhoda	Yoder	Medic 29	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMS	Pat	Shoop	FAME EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMS	Calvin	Shirk	McVeytown EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EMS	Jason	Wolfgang	Milroy EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Calendar Year 2009 Report (Summary)

- a. Copy of the CY 2009 Summary has been emailed to all members
- b. Staffing in 911 Center (2/3/2)
- c. Incoming Call Volume has decreased by 34%
- d. Dispatched Incidents have increased by 13%
- e. Wireless ratio has increased 2% (44%)

3. Narrow-Banding Discussion

- a. FCC Requirement – No wide-band transmission after Jan. 1, 2013
- b. Radio limitations – hand-out available
- c. Pager limitations (Minitor IV/V) – Minitor IV pagers are not Narrow-band capable.
- d. Frequency spread issue – Med 9/Fire 1
 - i. Minitor V pagers are not able to have Med 9 & Fire 1 in the same pager
 - ii. Some people have had modifications done to their pagers to allow both channels in their pager – voids manufacturers warranty.
 - iii. Discussion to have only one dispatch channel for Fire & EMS

Mifflin County Alert & Advisory Board
February 18th, 2010

Meeting Notes

4. System Status
 - a. No major changes planned for E-911, CAD or Radio Consoles.
 - b. CAD box alarms being updated this spring – Mandatory Municipal Authorization
 - c. Radio transmitters to be replaced (2-part project)

5. Radio System Replacement Discussion
 - a. Replacement & Upgrade to be done in a 2-part Project
 - b. Part 1 – Replace Existing Radios with Narrow-band compliant transmitters.
 - c. Part 2 – Enhance system with Duplex dispatch channels and simulcast for dispatch (to permit additional time for field organizations to arrange funding)

6. Enhancement Discussion
 - a. Simulcast Dispatch Channels – to reduce repeated dispatches due to coverage issues.
 - b. Duplex Dispatch Channels
 - i. to allow dispatchers to hear critical information during dispatch (but not guaranteed)
 - ii. Discussion on whether the Fire Dispatch Channel would be simulcasted and repeated or just simulcast
 - iii. Concern was expressed in allowing the Officer at the scene to relay critical information to responding units
 1. The need for multiple channel changes
 2. Confusion over which channel would be used to announce updates, etc.
 3. Decision to recommend that Dispatch Channel be Simulcast & repeated.
 - c. Dedicated May-day Channels – Eliminate Dispatch over May-day communications
 - d. Repeated Police Dispatch – to increase officer awareness between coverage areas

7. Fire Radio Channels – see attached table

8. Police Channels – see attached table

Mifflin County Alert & Advisory Board
February 18th, 2010

Meeting Notes

9. EMS Channels
 - a. Discussion that a majority of the EMS pagers will probably need to be replaced to be narrow-band capable.
 - b. Discussion on continuing problems coordinating Fire/EMS communications during joint response incidents.
 - c. Discussion on elimination of Med-patch & concerns regarding topography/mountains.
 - d. Recommendation to:
 - i. Eliminate EMS dispatch using Med-9, EMS dispatch to be made on the "Dispatch" channel.
 - ii. Discontinue the Med-Patch System – replace with a hospital based direct radio channel.
 - e. EMS to utilize an EMS Tactical channel in addition to the Operations Channels (UHF)

10. Time line for transition to Narrow-band
 - a. Transition plan needed from current frequencies to Narrowband Frequencies
 - b. Allow time to have radio's & pagers re-programmed
 - c. Not able to dispatch on existing frequencies in wide & narrow mode at the same time.
 - d. Current Time-line for transition – Board recommends that these dates be finalized.
 - i. Licensing – February/March
 - ii. Engineering – April/May
 - iii. Phase I – Summer/Fall 2010
 - iv. Phase II – Winter 2010/Spring 2011
 - v. Narrowband – Summer 2011

11. Alert & Advisory Board Action Items
 - a. Schedule Vendor Displays for local responders – 3 or more afternoons and evenings (1 for each vendor)
 - b. Identify Training Needs
 - i. For transition planning
 - ii. For operator use
 - c. Increase ICS/UCS integration into radio usage & SOP's
 - d. Identify funding sources and planning needs for field responders
 - i. County not eligible for grants
 - ii. Potential for Association to coordinate Fire Grant Application

Mifflin County Alert & Advisory Board
February 18th, 2010

Meeting Notes

Fire/EMS Radio Channels

Channel Purpose	Channel ID	Simplex/Duplex	Simulcast
Dispatch	Dispatch	Duplex	Y
On-scene Operations	Ops 1	Simplex	N
On-scene Operations	Ops 2	Simplex	N
On-scene Operations	Ops 3	Simplex	N
On-scene Operations	Ops 4	Simplex	N
On-scene Operations	Ops 5	Simplex	N
EMS Operations	EMS Tac	Simplex	N
Fire/EMS May-day	May-Day	Simplex	N

Police Channels

Channel Purpose	Channel ID	Simplex/Duplex	Simulcast
Police Dispatch	Dispatch	Duplex/Repeated	Y
Police Operations	P-Ops 1	Simplex (direct)	N
Police Operations	P-Ops 2	Simplex	N
Police (Regional)	Regional	Simplex	N
Police (National)	National	Simplex	N
Police May-day	P-May-Day	Simplex	N