

Narrowband Video

ISP

September 22, 2010

VIDEO	AUDIO
1. Animated graphics	Sound effects
2. Opening scenario of disaster scene with emergency responders communicating via radio	Nat sound: communications/dispatch.
3. Visuals of disaster continue	One of the primary roles...if not THE primary role... of government is to ensure that citizens feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. This security is achieved with effective and responsive police, fire and rescue services. Radio communications play a huge roll. Anything that compromises the ability of first responders to communicate between themselves and others ultimately results in failure. A failure often measured in loss of life and property.
4. Narrator on camera w/CG	First responder communications may soon be in jeopardy. Federally mandated changes to radio-based communications systems could leave your emergency crews without reliable radio systems. By January 1, 2013 MOST emergency radio systems MUST conform to new technical parameters known as "narrowbanding". Many legacy systems will not be compatible. Even newer systems, with built-in compatibility, will need re-programming. Your current system MAY be in one of the categories that must comply. If so, it is imperative that you begin planning NOW for budget, personnel, and technical requirements to achieve a smooth and risk-free transition.
January 1, 2013 "narrowbanding" must be implemented	
5. Graphics – sine wave, etc	So, just what is narrowbanding? Without going into technical detail, narrowbanding will create additional radio channels by reducing the size - known as bandwidth - of current channels by half. Where there now is one channel within the spectrum, there ultimately will be two. As a result, much of the current radio equipment will not work with the new, reduced bandwidth channels. It is important you know this for the following reasons:

VIDEO

6. Graphics continue – CG bullets from text

7. Graphics – Map of coverage area shrinking

- analog radio systems
- paging systems

Additional equipment and sites will be needed

Computer modelling can assist

8. Narrator on camera:

AUDIO

- You should NOT consider purchasing any equipment today that will not be able to meet the new technical requirements
- If you do nothing...or your process is delayed...you will put your own system in jeopardy and could potentially interfere with other systems in your own or neighbouring jurisdictions.
- After January 1, 2011, under existing Federal rules - and notwithstanding any deadline modifications - current radio systems not narrowbanding will no longer be allowed to expand their coverage area. Moreover, you will not be able to replace your current, older technology radios with new radios equipped with the older technology.

It also is important to understand that transitioning to a narrowband system may negatively impact your current system's coverage area. In many cases, narrowbanding reduces an analog radio system's ability to work in fringe areas. Simply put, your existing radio systems, including some pager systems, may no longer cover your entire area after the transition. In fact, your paging systems could actually stop working. To compensate additional equipment and sites may be needed. Fortunately, determining possible radio system changes can be facilitated by computer modelling. Unfortunately, modelling may not accurately reflect changes in paging coverage. Modeling will also add to the cost and time commitment during your planning stage.

This brings us to another aspect of this narrowbanding transition: multi-jurisdictional compatibility.

VIDEO

9. More on scene video/graphics

Multi jurisdictional compatibility is imperative

Detailed planning and coordination required

Resources will be stressed as January 1, 2013 nears

AUDIO

Events of the last decade have reinforced that jurisdictions must be able to communicate together effectively in times of large-scale emergencies. It is imperative that the first responder community formulate plans to deal with narrow banding on both a state-wide and regional basis. Obviously this will require detailed planning and coordination. This process will require time, personnel and funds.

The good news - there are many resources that can assist with this planning. We'll tell you where to find those resources later. The bad news -- as the 2013 deadline draws closer, resources will become less available as more and more localities ramp up their efforts. It is to everyone's advantage that your community start this process as soon as possible.

10. Narrator on camera:

So, just what will this implementation process look like? While the details will be different for each locality, in general the same steps will be followed:

11. CG bullets from text

- Evaluate current system and impact of transition on coverage area
- Coordinate with neighbouring localities
- Develop and implement specific transition plans
- Obtain state and federal approvals (including licenses and permits)
- Begin procurement process
- Purchase, install and test new systems
- Implement training
- Cut over to the new system ... transition complete

12. Narrator on camera:

The process is similar to what you know

As you can see, this narrowbanding transition is going to require intensive planning and work to implement. But, please - don't let the technical nature of this initiative discourage or confuse you. In many respects this project will be little different than other projects you deal with and approve every day. Let's take a look:

VIDEO

13. CG bullets from text

14. Narrator on camera

CG URL

15. CG – SCM URL

<http://www.vita.virginia.gov/services/voiceservices/twowayradio/>

16. Narrator on camera w/CG

January 1, 2013 is the DEADLINE

Failure to transform may result in Federal penalties or license revocation

Start today!

AUDIO

- Create awareness by beginning discussion with the affected user groups and oversight boards
- Hold information meetings to gain knowledge of the project
- Develop and approve realistic budgets and staff assignments
- Formalize the plan and timeline
- Initiate the plan and review progress
- Cut over to new system

Your technical staff will be an invaluable resource. They, in turn, can utilize a variety of information resources. Visit the VITA website shown on screen to get current information regarding resources, technical contacts, and informational events.

Additionally, the Commonwealth has existing contracts, administered by VITA, for purchase of compliant equipment. Visit VITA's Supply Chain website for the most current contract information.

The bottom line is this: Your emergency radio systems MAY be federally mandated to transition to new technology by January 1, 2013. You need to determine NOW if your locality will be affected. If your systems are affected and you do nothing – or have not completed your transition process by the deadline - your radio systems will be in jeopardy of failure. Further, you could face federal penalties and possibly license revocation.

You have nothing to gain by delay and too much to lose. Start your process today!

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