Site Development:

Efforts continue on the site development work. We have teams working in Milford and construction has started this week in Buckingham.

Fireground news!

At the February Fire Advisory Board meeting, we discussed and approved the following solution for the fireground on-scene communications.

We are happy to report that each incident commander will have a choice for how fireground communications are handled. These are the approved solutions:

Fireground – On Network

These are fireground channels that will remain on the new trunked system. The fire service was very clear that they had a desire to have the following features:

1. Console interface with a pass-through on the unit ID
2. Dispatcher awareness
3. Recording capability
4. On-Scene awareness

Remaining on the trunked system will provide all of these features. In the event of an EMERGENCY ID ACTIVATION, the users on this on-network digital channel will receive the notice of the emergency and every dispatcher console in the radio room will receive the alert at the County.

The “on network” fireground channels will be programmed on the A Bank of all fire service radios. There will be 4 dedicated fireground channels on the network (one for each operating zone).

Fireground – Direct Channels

These are “off-network” (analog) channels that work exactly the same way that Fireground does in the current radio system. They will not have any monitoring capabilities from the dispatch center.

All users that are on the same direct channel will be aware when an EMERGENCY ID ACTIVATION has occurred on the direct channel through both audible and visual alerts from their portable radios.

These direct channels will be located on the D Bank of the radios. There will be 4 dedicated direct channels (one for each operating zone).
*Please note*

The channel line ups on both A Bank and D Bank will be identical. The A Bank will host the digital zone channels and the digital fireground channels. The D Bank will host the digital zone channels and the direct analog fireground channels.

The Fire Communications Advisory Board District Representatives will each be hosting a meeting to review the details of fireground communications.

**Radio Programming**

The technicians have started programming the radios that are in the shop. We collected just about 1,400 APX6000 radios to address a few recent service bulletins from Motorola and the plan is to put the new radio programming into those radios before returning them to the agencies.

As noted last month, we have also secured the programming software from Harris. The technical staff will be providing programming timelines to everyone soon.

If your agency has mobile radios that you plan to install soon, please contact Mike Carr to confirm the assignment of each mobile radio for each vehicle.

Also, when your agency installs the new mobile radios you may find that the ignition or master switch doesn’t work the same way it does in today’s system. This is a simple fix for the radio technicians at the Shop to resolve and they will fix it when the new radio system is programmed into your mobile radio. Installers should follow the wiring diagram as provided by the radio manufacturer.

PLEASE NOTE: If you plan to have another county programmed into your radios, Bucks County **must** program your radios first – please do not take the radios to another county to get programming until the county staff has completed the install of the new radio program.

**In Building Amplifiers**

Several agencies have asked about in-building amplifiers for high density facilities that are compatible with our system. Motorola provided a sampling of companies that offer compatible in building amplifiers that may be of use to you in your communities. Those companies are:


**Paging PL Tone**

A question from the Fire Advisory Board –

Q: Is there a PL tone on the new paging system?
A: No, there is no PL tone on the new paging system. It is carrier squelch.
Fire Zone Map

Please see the Final Fire Zone Map that depicts how the new fire zones are broken out: