Microwave Connectivity:

We have the microwave system up and communicating at 15 sites. We anticipate adding 5 more into the network within the next week.

Site Status:

- Bridgeton – The shelter has been set and the lines and antennas are installed.
- Buckingham – The new shelter will arrive on 6/24/15. The tower is up and the lines and antennas are installed.
- Kingwood – We have started to install equipment at this site and should complete by early July.

Programming:

Programming has been completed at approximately 70% of our agencies. If the technicians have not contacted your agency yet, they will shortly.

Please note that the initial programming is set until cutover. We have received some requests to alter some channels and we will re-evaluate them after we get through our system cutover. We have also heard that there is an interest in the voice prompts for the channels in the fire service. Please contact your local district representative about this request if it is something your company wants to have after cutover.

We have been given permission by Montgomery County to program their direct fireground channels into the portables. We are sharing the same permission with Montgomery County for their border companies if they wish to program our direct channels into their radios.

We have requested to have the Harris representatives work with us in mid-July to test Harris equipment.

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.

Important: 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.
Training:

County managers and supervisors will be receiving training the week of 6/22/15. Once this training is completed the county will notify system users of the exact dates we will be training system users. The training will take place at the Public Safety Training Center in Doylestown. We will request that each Police, Fire and EMS department send 2 representatives for a train the trainer session. These people will receive training and materials to take back to their respective departments. As always more assistance is available if needed. Times and dates will be distributed to all soon. However for your calendars plan on the training taking place the first two weeks of August. Most training will take place in the evening to accommodate volunteer and shift work schedules.

Once training has been conducted, we will be uploading the training slides onto the project website and sharing with all chiefs for future use.