

Tri-Com Central Dispatch

FIRE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2019

Members Present: Deputy Chief Mark Einwich Geneva FD; Assistant Chief Matt Hanson, Elburn FD; Assistant Chief Scott Swanson, St Charles FD; Director Nicole Lamela, Tri-Com; Deputy Director Sarah Stoffa, Tri-Com

Members Absent: Chief Bill Perkins, Sugar Grove FPD
Deputy Chief Craig Hanson, Batavia FD
Assistant Chief Eric Ekstrom, North Aurora FD

Also Present: Steve Fiedler, Motorola
Chief Randy Deicke; Batavia FD
Chief Ryan Lambert; North Aurora FD
Tiffany Myers, Training Coordinator, Tri-Com
Shevon Sherod-Ramirez, Admin. Asst., Tri-Com

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. at Tri-Com.

Update on Starcom:

Steve Fiedler from Motorola was in attendance to assist with radio programming questions. He explained that there are items that need to be programmed on the back end. He discussed trunking. He stated that there is a control channel that is continuously sending out signals and telling the radios what to do. All radios are listening to the control channel.

Scanning is a great tool, but can lead astray. Zone control knows what channels are assigned. He discussed the how a person would not be heard on a channel if they roamed into a different zone.

DC Einwich stated that VHF radios are coming out of engines and ambulances. He stated that if they need to talk on a fireground channel, they will switch to VHF. He asked if digital pagers would listen to the control channels. Mr. Fiedler did not know the answer.

In answer to a question by Chief Lambert, Dir. Lamela stated that scanning will only work in Kane County. Not in other areas. Chief Lambert asked if they would know what site they were on. Mr. Fiedler stated that they would not and they could lose communication with Tri-Com.

Mr. Fiedler stated that they will communicate with ITTF talk groups to talk down state. Dir. Lamela stated that they would switch to interoperability channels and patch 2 channels together. Mr. Fiedler stated that if they are at a site and turn channel, it will be rerouted. If scanning, they may not be allowed into that site.

He also stated that while scanning. A multi-system scan can create a list of scan talk groups and conventional channels. If you select a talk group and scan to a conventional channel in scan list, you are no longer in the control channel. There is a potential to miss audio. Dir. Lamela stated that if you switch between StarCom and VHF, it could take a couple seconds to sign on and miss audio.

Chief Deicke asked if they could choose which channels to scan. Mr. Fiedler stated that you can; however, there is a scan list scan and a scan an operator selected scan. Users can create their own scan list. Chief Deicke stated that the chiefs will decide the scan lists. DC Einwich stated that he only wants users to be able to turn off and turn on scan and wants talk back scan turned off.

Mr. Fiedler went over the decisions that need to be made for programming including talk group identifiers (transparent to user), display (front 14 characters, top 8 characters), mode of operation (FDMA, TDMA, DDM), priorities, encryption (yes or no), access (local or statewide), emergency, scan (yes or no), call alert (paging a radio from console), announcement talk group.

He explained that for emergencies, the notification would go out on the channel selected (tactical) or on a different channel (revert). On tactical, all field units would hear it. No one else can talk when this is hit for a minimum of 10 seconds. Interrupt is set to no, then no one else can key up if another radio is keyed up.

DC Einwich asked about parameters for MDC IDs. Mr. Fiedler stated that they need to be in the list for programming. StarCom ID, MDC ID. They can be changed by Tri-Com. There needs to be a predefined list for aliases. If an alias is used, any assigned radio that changes, would mean every radio needs to be changed.

Once all information is received there will be radios programmed for each agency to sample. When all is approved then all the radios will be programmed.

Some programming items were discussed. DD Stoffa will get the information out to everyone on these items.

Tri-Com Items:

DD Stoffa stated that she is working on critiques and everyone will be receiving them. They are always done on generals and higher.

Dir. Lamela stated that one trainee just completed training. Another will be done soon. There are currently 5 trainees. Let Tri-Com know if there are any problems.

St. Charles Items:

AC Swanson stated that they have been getting multiple false alarms for example at 100 S. Riverside, they had four in one day. DD Stoffa stated that usually the alarm company has to have the owner call and take it out of service. AC Swanson stated that many times the owners are out of state or a large company and they cannot get in touch with them.

Geneva Items:

AC Einwich stated that for psych evaluations, staging is not coming out as “on scene” in Firehouse. AC Swanson stated that their staff has been hitting the on scene button and then going on air to say staging. DD Stoffa will look into yesterday’s call and see. She will let everyone know. Dir. Lamela stated that they should get rid of “staging” if no one is using it. AC Swanson stated that the dispatchers would have to let the staff know that it was clear to go in. DD Stoffa stated that the dispatchers are supposed to time stamp it. She will see if it is one particular person. Dir. Lamela stated that she could check, but if they don’t need it, just get rid of it.

Batavia Items:

None

Elburn Items:

None

Sugar Grove Items:

Absent

North Aurora Items:

None

Action Items:

Stoffa: Will send out list of programming items.

Stoffa: Will check on staging issue.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 P.M. The next meeting of the Tri-Com Fire Operations Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9**, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.

** Note date change from usual day.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shevon Sherod-Ramirez

Administrative Assistant

Tri-Com