

DU-COMM

DuPage Public Safety Communications

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FIRE OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 12, 2025 – 8:00 Hours

DU-COMM, 420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

1. Call to Order

Chief Fors called the meeting to order at 08:04 hours.

Chief Rob Schultz	Carol Stream	Chief Steve Stapleton	Villa Park
DC Jason Kanzia	Carol Stream	DC Frank Reposh	Villa Park
Chief Dave Godek	Clarendon Hills	Chief Jeffery Keefe	West Chicago
Chief James Lahanis	Darien-Woodridge	DC Ric Ciszewski	West Chicago
Chief Scott Spinazola	Downers Grove	Chief Rob Brill	Wheaton
DC Steve Reynolds	Elmhurst	Dc Pete Vassios	Wheaton
Chief Chris Clark	Glen Ellyn	Chief Steve Evans	Winfield
Chief Eric Fors (Chair)	Hanover Park	Chief Rick Sanborn, Jr.	York Center
DC Scott Gray (arrive 8:24)	Lisle-Woodridge	DC Bret Mowery	York Center
Chief Kevin Fleege	Oak Brook		

Absent: Chief William Gabrenya – Bartlett; Chief Matthew Beyer – Bloomingdale; Chief Rich Cassady – Glenside; Chief J. Pindelski – Hinsdale; Chief Rick Sander – Lombard; Chief Johnny Turkovich – Oak Brook Terrace; Chief Tim Smeltzer – Roselle; Chief Andy Dina – Warrenville

Staff: Executive Director Jessica Robb, Deputy Director Tyler Benjamin, Finance Manager Angela Athitakis, Training Manager Schretter, QA Manager Ryan Miller, MIS Manager Scott Klein, TS Manager Erik Maplethorpe

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. March 20, 2025

Chief Lahanis made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025 minutes, and Chief Keefe seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Peer Review

- Chief Fors proposed to shift the focus of the peer review process. Historically, the committee reviewed MABAS box alarm level responses, which are now infrequent.
- The new proposal is to review LiveMUM to move up recommendations on a regular basis. This change is prompted by increased scrutiny and questions about the system's performance.
- The group will establish parameters to select specific calls for review, such as incidents involving two or more move-ups or those requiring four or more engine companies for an extended period.
- MABAS box alarms and specialty responses will still be reviewed.
- Staff will update and distribute a LiveMUM 101 informational packet to the committee in July. A formal presentation and Q&A session will be held at the August meeting.

4. Reports

A. Staff

- **CommsCoach Program:**
 - DU-COMM has purchased CommsCoach, an AI software for quality assurance and training that analyzes 9-1-1 calls.
 - Implementation is delayed pending an API connection approval from the ETSB, which is currently awaiting a State's Attorney's opinion on whether it's an allowable cost through 9-1-1 surcharge funds.
 - The delay is causing frustration, as other agencies like Northwest Central and Cook County have already used 9-1-1 funds for the same or similar products. Discussions began in March 2025, with the initial

request to the ETSB for the interface was made on April 4th. DU-COMM purchased CommsCoach on April 23rd to meet our fiscal year deadline.

- **Argonne National Laboratory:**

- DD Benjamin stated Argonne Fire has submitted a letter of interest to join DU-COMM as a contract customer (not a full member). They would receive dispatching services but would not have a vote or seat in the governance structure. Argonne would be similar to Hanover Township and the NW Mobile Stroke Unit. They will keep their alarms in-house but looking for someone to dispatch for them in place of the one employee living there 24/4 to dispatch.
- DU-COMM is exploring the costs, which will require approval from the Finance and Executive Committees and the Board of Directors. The process may be lengthy due to federal contractor paperwork requirements.
- Additional interest in membership or contract was noted from the DuPage Forest Preserve, that we pushed back due to staffing, and Fox River Countryside. All are exploring options and costs.

B. ETSB

Director Robb noted:

- **New Radios:**

- A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to the delayed rollout of new Motorola portable radios.
- Fire Chiefs shared there is a high degree of frustration due to the deteriorating condition of the current radios, which is becoming a safety concern. Cases are cracked and failing, leading to malfunctions from water intrusion during interior firefighting operations.
- It was added that we get more done collectively when we band together to make a statement. We drive what the ETSB does to make decisions.
- The ETSB/Motorola has been hesitant to provide a firm timeline. However, the Fire Focus group feels confident that test radios should start being distributed in July.
- The rollout will be managed on a department-by-department basis, requiring coordination to swap old radios for new ones, as they share the same IDs.

- **Mobile Radios:**

- The mobile radios (7500s) present a separate challenge. Updating them is a time-consuming process (1-2 hours per radio) with a risk of "bricking" the units. The immediate priority is the distribution of portable radios.

- **Channel Naming:**

- To avoid confusion, the new portable radios will be programmed with both the current channel lineup (in the first few zones) and the new channel naming conventions. A full switch to the new lineup is pending a solution for mobile radios.
- A Motorola project manager will attend the next ETSB meeting in July to provide a timeline and answer questions. The issue of mobile radios will be placed on the agenda for the Fire Standardization Committee to generate a collective push for a solution.

C. MABAS Divisions (2, 10, 12, 13, 16)

- **Division 13:** Tri-Com went active with a new receiver antenna at Fermilab, which has greatly improved coverage.
- **Division 12:** ACDC has requested to take over MABAS dispatching for its primary member agencies within Division 12 (Addison, Wooddale, Itasca, Bensenville). DU-COMM has deferred the decision to Division 12 leadership as is not a DU-COMM concern. We assume they will draft an MOU similar to West Chicago moved from Division 13.

D. Apparatus Changes

- A reminder for Purvis was issued to all departments to inform DU-COMM of any new apparatus to ensure CAD accuracy.

5. Committees

A. Fire Standardization Committee

Chief Spinazola noted:

- The EFD update and the High-Rise Tactical Dispatch Policy will be forwarded to the committee for review.

B. Fire Focus

- A concern was raised regarding the new radios' LTE functionality. Site trunking maintenance events currently knock out LTE service for over three hours, which could affect departments relying on LTE for in-building coverage.
- TS Manager Maplethorpe will add a note to maintenance email/memos to explicitly state that LTE service will be unavailable during these events.

6. Old Business

A. High Rise

Chief Fors noted

- The tactical dispatch policy for high-rise incidents will be reviewed by the Fire Standardization Committee.

B. Use of Channel Guides/Box Cards – 20 Minute Checklist

The Committee discussed

- The consensus is to move away from physical box cards and rely on channel guides and the 20-minute checklist.
- To address the issue of interdivisional requests (previously on box cards), this information will be added as a subsection to each department's channel guide.
- Specialty response cards (e.g. HazMat, TRT) are still necessary and will be made accessible to all chiefs via PowerDMS.
- Suggested Scott Klein could build a resource for these as well instead of paper/PowerDMS.

C. EMS Box Cards

- The training bulletin was distributed after the last meeting. No significant questions were received. This item will be removed from future agendas.

7. New Business

A. Annual Board-Up List

Deputy Director Benjamin noted

- 14 applications were received for the annual board-up list.
- A subcommittee was formed to review the applications and provide a recommendation at the August meeting.
 - **Committee Members:** Chief Spinazola, DC Mowery, and Chief Fors.
- An issue regarding SERVPRO franchise territories was discussed. It was determined that this is an internal business matter for SERVPRO to manage, and DU-COMM will continue to call the next company on the list regardless of territory.
- The current board-up policy has approvals at the June Fire Operations Subcommittee meetings. DD Benjamin will add to the policy for the April Fire Operations Subcommittee meeting to form the 3-person committee so approvals will remain at June meetings.

8. Other Business

A. GIS Data Accuracy

Director Robb noted

- A serious concern was raised about the timeliness and accuracy of GIS data entry into the CAD system, which is critical for NG911 call routing.
- An example was cited where a new 30-unit apartment building in Lombard, submitted on May 2nd, was not added to the system until June 6th. Such delays can prevent geo-verification and cause significant response delays.
- The national standard for turnaround is 24 hours. The departure of a key ETSB employee has worsened the situation. TCs cannot enter LSI or keyholder information until an address is added.
- This issue will be escalated to the DU-COMM Executive Committee to be addressed with urgency.

9. Adjournment

Chief Spinazola made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Sanborn seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 09:03 hrs.

The next Fire Operations Subcommittee meeting is August 21, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. at DU-COMM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Regalado

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