

DU-COMM

DuPage Public Safety Communications

420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 260-7500 Main

www.ducomm.org



SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, July 1, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Present:

DC Alan Emody	Bloomington FPD	Chief Colin Fleury	West Chicago PD
Sgt. Doug Rumich	Darien PD	Chief Robert Brill (Chair)	Wheaton FD
DC Jamie Tunk	Darien-Woodridge FPD	DC Benjamin Kadolph	Willowbrook PD
IT Dir. Larry Kravets	Elmhurst PD	DC Dennis Brinkman	Woodridge PD
Sgt. T. Crawford	Hanover Park PD	AC Tim Leidig	York Center FPD
DC George Hyland	Lombard FD		
Chief J. Turkovich	Oakbrook Terr FPD	MIS Manager Roberts	DU-COMM
Chief T. Smeltzer	Roselle FD	TS Manager Maplethorpe	DU-COMM
Chief Jeffery Keefe	West Chicago FPD	Director Linda Zerwin	ETSB
DC Ric Ciszewski	West Chicago FPD	DD Nate Krause	ETSB

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Meeting Notes

The March 4, 2026 meeting notes were provided for review.

3. Staff Reports

Technical Services Report:

- Ongoing upgrades to Fire East and Fire South VHF transmitters. Fire North receiver upgrades continue as hardware support declines.
- DFSI project nearing completion; awaiting a single Starcom firewall change.
- Recent lightning strike damaged equipment; replacements installed within 24 hours; one antenna replaced within 72 hours. No major service outages.

MIS Report

- Help desk technician Dan Nunez left; replacement starting in two weeks. Responsibilities distributed among staff in interim.
- JCI system block service updates completed.
- Automated weather alerts (including tornado warnings) operated correctly during recent severe weather.

4. Old Business

A. ETSB Radio Purchase

Extensive discussion about APX NEXT emergency button behaviors, Bluetooth interaction, mayday functionality, and cross-agency signaling.

Key points:

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- Previous issues with mayday chaining across radios have been resolved.
- Bluetooth affects cross-channel emergency alerts; when Bluetooth is off, cross-referencing does not occur.
- Goal is to review code plug settings with ETSB post-encryption to fully understand emergency signaling behavior.
- Command Central mapping accuracy remains inconsistent; concerns raised over GPS reliability when radios move.
- Agencies desire geofencing improvements and broader cross-radio visibility for large-scale events.
- Minimum radio volume testing shows adequate results; fire recommends pushing update during encryption rollout.

B. IDPH MERCI Licenses

- Licenses continue to cause issues for agencies outside CDH system; confusion from previous submissions led to current strict policies.
- State considering expanding license capacity but not yet implemented.

C. Siren Automation Server

- Recently validated successful activation during tornado warnings; automation triggered proper local sirens and bridge notifications.
- Public confusion noted when sirens activate only within storm polygons. Agencies requested redistribution of educational PowerPoint on polygon-based activation.
- Siren groups may activate across multiple towns if one member is inside the warning polygon.

5. New Business

A. What3Words Demo

- TC's use of RapidSOS now includes What3Words geolocation, enabling responders to navigate to precise 10x10 ft squares.
- Highly effective for forest preserve incidents, water rescues, wandering persons, and areas lacking traditional address references.
- Recommended agencies install the app on rig phones for rapid deployment.

6. Other Business

A. ETSB Report

ETSB Director Zerwin reported

- Introduced Nate Krause, newly appointed Deputy Director of Operations; replacing Matt Choisch.
- ETSB released podcast notes including a step-by-step radio update handout. Agencies should distribute them.
- Police radio updates: 80 of 1900 completed; agencies reminded to update spare/unassigned radios.
- Fire radio updates: Fire cannot move to encryption until two prerequisite updates are completed.
- Several agencies still need final updates. List will be included in the podcast.

B. Encryption Cutover

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ETSB Deputy Director Krause

- Go-live scheduled: July 8 at 5:30 AM. Notifications begin at 4:30 AM.
- Motorola/ETSB staff will be present onsite and remotely.
- Agencies will shift to local channels during backend encryption work.
- Console updates expected to require brief portable usage (5–15 minutes).
- Entire process estimated between 2–6 hours.
- After encryption, police will temporarily operate using double code plugs; fire encryption updates begin next day.
- Fire's updates expected to take about a week depending on cloud capacity.
- Merit channels will receive separate updates.
- Mobile radios (including 6500 models) may require flash updates to support encryption. Agencies must submit tickets.
- Agencies ordering new vehicles should notify ETSB of equipment procurement.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.