

BULLETIN

NO: 23-116
DATE: July 31, 2023
FROM: Roger M. Fisher, Deputy Fire Chief, Emergency Command & Data Center
SUBJECT: Rollout of New APX8000 Radio Equipment REVISED

ECDC and City Wireless staff are nearly complete with the roll out of the APX 8000 radio equipment. This equipment includes new portable radios, batteries, charging equipment, collar microphones and other materials which will be delivered in staged phases. Although the APX 8000 works much the same as the APX 6000 radio, several changes have been made based upon operations feedback, research, availability of new options and safety concerns. This bulletin addresses some of these changes, however ongoing radio training will be provided as features and systems are activated.

Summary of Changes

- The addition of a second direct channel SNDDIR2 which can be found in position “N” in each zone. This direct channel should not be used until a subsequent bulletin is released and the full radio roll out is completed.
- The APX 8000 radio now includes an advanced noise cancelling feature that can be changed via profiles called “normal” and “loud” via the keypad. Until additional training is provided, this feature should be left in the normal position.
- The APX 8000 collar mic has a flashlight built into the front of the collar mic.
- The radio is programmed with 3 preset options on the keypad MS1, MS2 and MS3. These can be set to a specific talk group/channel location for quickly jumping to these channels (as with the “home” button, users must remain aware of the safety issue of channel disassociation when doing so. For example, if the preset is set to 7E, but the channel knob is in the “A” location, the channel knob will move the radio to 7B if the channel knob is rotated clockwise one click, not to 7F.)
- APX 8000 radios were purchased as “dual band” units and the department’s VHF channels were programmed into the radios in zones after our 700/800Mhz channels. The APX 8000 radio is limited to 16 channels and as a result, the user must use the keypad to go to channels 17-20. More training will be provided on this feature.
 - Crews **should not** use the APX 8000 radios for incidents working on VHF at this time.
 - Crews **should** and will continue to use their dedicated VHF radios for incidents on VHF channels (MTZ, etc.)

The roll out of these radios also addressed two safety concerns that were identified by multiple operations personnel during the APX 6000 radio roll out several years ago:

- The two buttons below the Push to Talk button are no longer programmed to zone up and zone down. This was solved programmatically and has been rolled out over the past several years as APX 6000 radios were programmed and is now fully corrected in the APX 8000 programming.
- The channel knob on the collar mic has been eliminated. Although not as convenient, this collar mic channel knob does not associate with the channel knob on the radio

and has resulted in numerous reports from operations of incorrect channel selection in an IDLH environment. For example, if a user sets their radio channel knob on the radio to 8A but the channel knob on the collar mic is set to 8G, rotating the channel knob on the collar mic clockwise will change the radio to 8H, not 8B as would be expected. There have also been numerous reports from other agencies of the collar mic changing channels randomly, with some agencies returning hundreds of those collar mics back to Motorola. The FEMA issued USAR cache of APX 8000s have also incorporated this change.

All the XTS 5000 radios will be replaced by APX 6000 radios later. Emergency Operations should be complete on the rollout. Any concerns should be addressed to Jason McKeon jmckeon@sandiego.gov

The selection of these radio features was vetted through the health and safety committee, as well as a multi-disciplinary review committee. Any questions regarding the rollout or equipment should be forwarded through your chain of command.

