

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF

During the **October 31st, 2012** UAB meeting, Plymouth City Manager Laurie Ahrens made a statement to the group about their decision to purchase encrypted radios. The media was broadcasting incident information before administration is even aware of it due to the easy access of talk-group monitoring.

During the **January 30th, 2013** UAB meeting, Corcoran Police Department Lt. John Hamilton raised a discussion to the group inquiring about mandating encryption for all agencies. Lt. Hamilton encouraged continued discussions about encryption. Since ½ of the Hennepin Agencies either already had encryption or purchased new radios and were waiting for them to be put into service that might be the way to go.

During the **April 10th, 2013** UAB meeting, HCSO Assistant Radio System Manager John Gundersen advised The Sheriff's Office can encourage but not mandate the use of encryption. If encrypted radios/talk groups are needed and an agency does not have them the Sheriff's Office has a cache of over 100 radios available for temporary use. HCSO did create a new encrypted tactical talkgroup for agencies to use. Gundersen advised purchasing encryption on a radio could add up to \$1000 to the price. Lt. John Hamilton with Corcoran Police passed a comment from the Lakes Area Emergency Management Group that for law enforcement they suggest encrypted radios for agencies purchasing new/replacement radios.

Over the next two years during UAB meetings, encryption conversations continued. Since the majority of Motorola Radios were coming to end of life over the next few years, LT. Hamilton continued to encourage agencies to purchase encrypted radios when their agencies would be replacing their radios. Also during this time, discussions were held about the increase of radio audio on some of the radio mains with the additions of Hopkins and Golden Valley.

During the **December 30th, 2015** UAB meeting, updates were provided that it was now HCSO's goal to work toward encrypting all of the LAW mains. This was discussed as a group that this was critical to security with the amount of information that is getting out through the scanners and mobile apps.

During the **March 30th, 2016** UAB Meeting, the following items were brought up as discussion points and recommendations:

- UAB attendees requested that an informational document be sent out to the agencies that would include educational background material on encryption (e.g., specifics, benefits, and obstacles).

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

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