

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).

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- They also requested the PSAP's strategic plan/timeline of when they are going to encrypt the mains.
- This informational piece will be used to provide clarification and justification to city managers and city council members when agencies are requesting additional budgetary funds to upgrade/replace radios and to prepare their long-range capital plans.
- Assistant County Administrator Mark Thompson added that it may be beneficial to provide the agencies with a breakdown of the financial expenditures the county is investing in the system upgrade to show the big picture and that it doesn't all fall on the cities.

During the **December 14th, 2016**, the UAB board was going to pick a future date to support encryption that agencies would have as a milestone to purchase encrypted capable radios if they did not already have them.

During the **June 14th, 2017** UAB meeting, Curt Meyer and John Gundersen from HCSO provided an update regarding the move toward encryption. As of this date, 70% of Hennepin County Law Agencies were now encrypted. Some could not update their radios until 2018 and some did not have an encryption plan yet. Because radio change management cycle is approximately 3-4 years due to the amount of radios that need to be physically touched, the new encrypted LAW radio mains were being added to radios that were being updated, including the addition of the new LAW4E, which was a newly added LAW main for busy times.

During the **September 6th, 2017** UAB Meeting, HCSO Major Jeff Storms discussed the changes and the addition of the 4th main. The move toward encrypting all of the Law mains wasn't going to be until 2019 until all Law Agencies would have encrypted radios.

During the **March 6th, 2019** UAB meeting, a cut-over date to the new encrypted law mains was set for April 10th, 2019. The plan was to patch the new encrypted talkgroup to the old non-encrypted talkgroup while the last of the HCSO radios were updated. On April 20th, there was a patching issues that was identified and the encryption implementation was pushed back with a date TBA and the new date was going to be a hard cutover.

During the **September 4th, 2019** UAB meeting, an October cutover date was possible and it was discussed to aim for the middle of October. Emergency Communications Facility (ECF) Director Tony Martin was going to check with

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