

VHF Overlay Cutover Initiative Notification

Why is this happening

In support of South Sound 911's request to improve the VHF communication system for mutual aid, Pierce County has implemented a new VHF Mutual Aid system that consists of 4 narrow band channels: fire station alerting, fire mutual aid, Law Enforcement Radio Network (LERN), and mutual aid channel for all first responders.

Who is affected

Cities, towns, school districts/higher education, hospitals, search & rescue, State / Federal agencies, and regional first responders who operate mobile and portable radio equipment on the old wideband channels.

What is the impact

Pierce County is reusing wideband frequencies that have been transitioned to narrowband per the federal mandate to migrate all wideband to narrowband. Agencies who are still operating on wideband channels will need to migrate to narrowband.

<u>Old Channel Name</u>	<u>New Channel Name</u>	<u>Base Station TX Frequency</u>	<u>Base Station RX Frequency</u>
Fire F1	PCF D-1 (DISP)	153.8900	N/A
Fire F3	PCF D-3 (MA)	154.1600	154.1600
DEM	MAC	151.3550	156.0600
LERN	LERN	155.3700	155.3700

When is this happening

Pierce County anticipates this transition to occur by the end of February. We will keep you informed of the progress of this transition with updates provided on our Pierce County Emergency Management website on the Communication Systems Division page.

What do you need to do

Agencies who have mobile and portable radio equipment that operate on the old channels as stated above, need to migrate to the new narrowband channels as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need assistance with this action, you can contact the Pierce County Communication Systems Division staff Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm at 253-798-3711.