

MICRN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network)

December 14, 2015

Dear MICRN Membership:

THE TIME IS HERE!!! In a letter to members dated August 4, 2014, all members were advised that the MICRN network would be migrating to a digital system over the next 18 months. Our stated goal was to have all radios on the MICRN changed over to digital by **January 1, 2016**. An 18 month window was provided to ease budget planning through this process.

THAT TIME IS NOW. Electronic Engineering will be making the system switch to digital the week of January 11, 2016, weather permitting. If you already have your digital radios operating on the analog system, Electronic Engineering may need to make a minor change to the radios at that time. The first test of the digital system will be the usual first Wednesday of the month, February 3rd, at 11am.

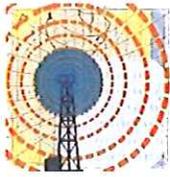
Reminder of the purpose of MICRN: (Part I Purpose – *first paragraph* – MICRN 28E Agreement)

Purpose

The Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network ("MICRN") utilizes an 800 MHz radio, and was created to enhance immediate communications between agencies and emergency responders in central Iowa in the event of an emergency. Emergencies include hazardous weather and non-weather emergencies including hazardous materials incidents, terrorist attacks, mass casualty events, flooding and any event requiring inter-agency communication. MICRN was established in the spring of 1994 with an initial membership involving about 15 agencies. The original concept was to enhance interagency communications during emergencies. The need was identified after the 1993 floods where interagency communication was a problem. Since 1994, the MICRN has grown to over 40 divisions of public and non-profit private agencies in eight Iowa counties.

As stated in our 28E Agreement, MICRN was created to enhance immediate communications between agencies, etc. In order to communicate effectively, the MICRN uses a commercial digital radio service offered by Electronic Engineering to easily share information between a multitude of agencies across eight Iowa counties.

Important – All MICRN members must coordinate with Electronic Engineering to purchase or replace existing radios with digital radios by January 1, 2016. It is possible that existing radios may function in digital mode, or your current radios may need to be replaced with radios which are compatible with the new digital system. The vendor will be able to help you answer those questions. In any event, everyone must contact the vendor and make arrangement to change over to digital.



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Our point of contact at Electronic Engineering is Mark Clark at 515- 286-1851 or e-mail Mclark@connectingyou.com. If the vendor assigns a new person to the MICRN, we will inform the network.

There will also be a small increase in the monthly service fee for each agency which is independent of the move to digital.

We regret any budgetary issues this may cause, but we must make the change to digital to keep the network on a secure footing as we move forward. The analog service will be discontinued when this switch is completed.

The newly elected Executive Committee of MICRN is:
Jon Davis, Polk County Emergency Management – Chairperson
Brian Wilson, Johnston Public Works – Vice Chairperson
Dave Lockard, Des Moines Police Department
Kelsey Angle, National Weather Service
Pete Lowell, Principal Financial Group

Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions you may have. Thank you for participating in this very important public safety program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Davis

Chair – MICRN Executive Committee