

Policy Statement #4

Published: July 21, 2009

NARROWBANDING Of VHF and UHF Radio Frequencies by the FCC

(Adopted THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009)

Background:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has required that all radios on VHF and UHF Part 90 channels operate narrowband (12.5 kHz) by January 1, 2013 (except for paging channels 152.0075 and 157.450 or if they meet an efficiency equivalent of 12.5 khz).

The FCC has required that no new wideband Part 90 VHF and UHF radio licenses be issued after January 1, 2011 (unless they meet an efficiency equivalent of 12.5 khz).

Most VHF and UHF radio systems in Wisconsin still need to be narrowbanded (reduce their operating bandwidth from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz).

The Wisconsin Police Interoperability Network (WISPERN) Board has stated that the WISPERN channel should be narrowbanded by 2011.

The more radio channels that can be narrowbanded in a similar time frame, the less system performance problems, and the less number of times each radio will need to be reprogrammed, there will be.

A desire for statewide guidance, particularly regarding the statewide common mutual aid and interoperability channels, has been expressed.

A plan to complete most narrowbanding in the year 2011 will provide two budget cycles for agencies that may still need to replace some of their radio equipment and provide the year 2012 to wrap up the effort.

The State of Wisconsin Interoperability Council has determined that all statewide VHF common mutual aid and interoperability channels should be converted to narrowband operation between the dates of April 1, 2011 and November 1, 2011.

The statewide common mutual and interoperability channels that must be converted to narrowband operation are: WISPERN, POINT, MARC1, MARC2, MARC3, MARC4, WEM CAR, EMS A, EMS B, EMS C, IFERN, FG RED, FG WHITE, FG BLUE, and NATSAR.

**This policy has been endorsed by the Interoperability Council
under the authority of ss. 16.9645.**