

Challenges to Narrow Banding in Rural Texas

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Know what's out there

Know your product

Maintain an accurate inventory of
subscriber radio equipment

Provide constant and consistent messaging of the process and procedures to all agencies a year in advance of the process and continue monthly

Develop and schedule narrow banding in the field well in advance

Group like agencies together

Narrow band mobiles together and portables at a different time

Be mindful of geographic miles and time required to complete the process based on the number of radios and when they can be upgraded

You will not be able to upgrade all
radios all at one time

Responders will be sick, off shift,
on duty, vehicles will be wrecked,
radios will be lost, locked up, and
out of town

Be ready to re-schedule and plan
for a few days to come back and
reach those absent radios at a later
date

Explain that those radios not available for narrow banding at the time when transmitting as wide band radios will sound like they are over modulating, remind those users that by backing off the mic and lowering their voice that will decrease the modulation effect

Paging systems will be a whole other issue as many of these systems are old and may not be able to be narrow banded, agencies must be prepared to replace or upgrade these systems where possible

Use the time to provide material to responders regarding your radio system, it's operational capabilities, about narrow banding, and "radio 101"

It's not all bad