

9/30/2016

Please spend a minute and read the entire email below, there's some great information to help ensure you'll be ready for DaneCom when it's officially ready for business! As the days until go live approach, these communications will provide important transition information and reminders

**It's 33 days until the new DaneCom radio system is scheduled to be placed into full service.** Said another way, On November 1<sup>st</sup>, if your radios have not been properly programmed for DaneCom, your radios may be unable to reach whomever it is you would be trying to call on the radio! The following wide-area radio channels will be turned off and/or no longer monitored by Dane County Dispatch effective November 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Dane Sheriff Channel 1 (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- Dane Sheriff Channel 3 (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- Dane Sheriff Channel 5 (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- A – Adam (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- B – Baker (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- C – Charlie (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- D – David (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- E – Edward (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- F – Frank (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- H – Henry (**getting turned off 11/1/2016**)
- Dane County Highway (transitioning to DaneCom prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>)

If you utilize any of the above channels – *even just “once in a while”* – you and your radios WILL be affected!

Participation in Wednesday's DaneCom roll call was poor (but those that checked in sounded great). Very few entities that checked in are fully ready for DaneCom, but I expect that number to increase as we get even closer to DaneCom go-live. If you haven't yet been in contact with your radio programmers, please talk to them as soon as possible. The process of programming a radio from start to finish isn't as easy as it was years ago. Much planning is done even before the first radio gets programmed. Once it's decided how your radios are to be programmed, a radio programmer then has to create the program that tells your radio how to work. This is a process that can take many days to complete and perfect. After that, the act of actually placing that information into a radio is simple enough, but somewhat time-consuming as *all* of your radios need to be programmed.

Please verify that your radios have been programmed correctly for the **current** DaneCom radio system! There were at least two entities that planned on participating in roll call on Wednesday only to have their radios tell them they were out of range. As it turned out, their radios were programmed to work on the DaneCom system that was operational back in 2013/2014. They were surprised to find out that the “old” DaneCom programming (from 2013) was no longer valid and their radios needed to be programmed again for the new, improved trunked radio subsystem!

**In addition to getting your radios programmed, remember to check with your radio vendor to ensure you have the proper wideband antennas in place. Many antennas currently in use on today's radio**

**systems are not wideband. While those antennas may seem to work fine, your radios will not be operating at their peak performance. Don't forget about your portable radios!**

The DaneCom trunked radio subsystem remains in service, but not yet being utilized for real business. I encourage anyone with a properly programmed radio – and a friend – to try it out. If you do not have a “local” talk group on the system to utilize, please feel free to try things out on one of the DAEVENT (V, W, X, or Z) talk groups that should be programmed into any radio capable of utilizing DaneCom.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

**(Next DaneCom roll call is scheduled for Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, at noon, on DAEVENTW.)**

Have a great weekend!

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