

Thurston 911 Communications
Operations Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M.

Meeting was held via Zoom and in person.

FIRE SERVICE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Hurley – Chair, Tumwater Fire Department
Brian VanCamp – Thurston County Fire District 8
Jennifer Schmidt – Lacey Fire District 3
Matt Morris – Olympia Fire Department
Ben Miller-Todd – Thurston County Medic One

LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Almada – Vice-Chair, Lacey Police Department
Jay Mason – Tumwater Police Department
Rob Carlson – Yelm Police Department
Ruben Mancillas – Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Ray Brady – Olympia Police Department

TCOMM STAFF:

Wendy Hill – Executive Director
Jonnicia Elkins – Deputy Director
Tim Klotz – I.T. Manager
David Taylor – Radio Systems Manager
Bre Skaggs – Admin Assistant

GUESTS:

Shawn Crimmins – FLAC Chair, Tumwater Fire Department
Eric Forsythe – American Medical Response
Chris Patti – Lacey Fire District 3

Call to Order

Operations Chair, B. Hurley called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Approval of the November 17, 2025 Agenda. Approved with one addition of Coroner Notifications. **M/S/C (R. Almada/B. Van Camp)**

Approval of the October 1, 2025 Joint Administration & Operations Board minutes **M/S/C (R. Almada/B. Van Camp)**

Correspondence - None

Public Testimony - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

I.T. Services – T. Klotz stated a hard CAD down scenario occurred over the weekend, lasting about three hours. Data may have been lost between CAD workstations and the CAD server. The IT team is working with Central Square to recover data and determine the root cause. Notifications sent out to notify agencies were hindered by limitations and only reached a few intended recipients. IT will be working on improving the alerting process, especially when CAD is down. The go-live date for the Central Square Vertex 911 phone

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system is delayed due to routers intermittently losing connectivity to the State ESINET routers. A new go-live date will be set once this has been fixed.

Radio Systems – D. Taylor stated PSE is scheduled to energize the DuPont site which is the final major TCERN project construction item.

Radio Reprogramming: All radios within Thurston County for first responders will be reprogrammed with key changes for the system and agency-specific operational changes. Tentative dates are set for December 1st for Fire/EMS, and December 8th for Law Enforcement. A website will be available to track the reprogramming status of agency radios. D. Taylor also briefed the group on Motorola Smart Connect, which allows radios to use cellular networks to connect to the system. Radios can seamlessly roam from the radio network to cellular networks (Verizon, AT&T's FirstNet). There is a beta plan to use agency's cellular modem (WI-FI) for Smart Connect. This would allow mobile radios to roam onto the cellular network using WI-FI in the car and is a no-cost solution.

TCERN Core Upgrade: The Core upgrade is scheduled for December. Motorola will send a team to upgrade every server and the core operating system. They do not anticipate any outages.

Motorola White Glove: Warranty repair ends June 2027.

Digital Vehicle Repeater Systems: DVRS deployments will start next year. DVRS programming of the radios will correspond with the Digital Vehicle Repeater Systems that will be issued out to agencies for use improving radio coverage in buildings and challenging outdoor spaces.

Purchasing New Radios: The TCERN radio shop should review quotes for new radios to ensure agencies are getting the right equipment. To avoid potential issues, TCOMM recommends that agencies send Radio Systems an email with the quote or meet with L. Hanson to ensure everything is correct before placing orders.

ERCES: Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems refer to in-building DAS systems in larger buildings lacking sufficient radio coverage for first responders. North Thurston High School and the Village Co Op in Tumwater at Henderson and Yelm Highway have been recently deployed these systems and have been reviewed and signed off by TCOMM staff. A TCERN webpage will soon be available to see which buildings have approved coverage and in-building systems.

Reprogramming Base Radios: Base radios will need to be upgraded by a Radio Systems team member during the December reprogramming effort. Most base radios have WI-FI for programming at stations with terminals; others will require on-site programming. Not programming the base stations does not affect operational characteristics.

FLAC Subcommittee Report – None.

Old Business

None.

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New Business

Assigning Comm Plans – S. Crimmins stated a situation occurred where an engine company was dispatched to a fire alarm, encountered a working fire with a rescue, and couldn't switch to the assigned comm plan due to task saturation. The proposed Comm Plan provides direction to dispatch, initial arriving officers, battalion chiefs, and incident commanders. Dispatch can patch Fire Ops channels with the Command channels, allowing all units to communicate, especially in IDLH situations where switching channels isn't safe. This is a temporary measure until crews can switch to the designated comms channel; the patch is removed once the crew is out of the IDLH environment. **M/S/C (J. Schmidt/B. Van Camp)**

TCOMM Strategic Plan – W. Hill is working on a new strategic plan. The draft has been shared with a small group of Fire/EMS and Law chiefs for input. The mission, vision, and values, updated in 2021, remain unchanged. Highlights include objectives for leadership and administration, operations, technology, as well as financial. This is a five-year plan, contingent on TCOMM Admin Board approval in January. The Admin Board will help prioritize objectives.

Coroner Notifications – W. Hill stated that field units are increasingly contacting the Coroner's Office directly for death notifications, bypassing TCOMM. The Coroner wants notifications to go through TCOMM, as per the current process. He will be sending an email to all agencies reiterating the process, and W. Hill asked that agencies remind their crews.

Meeting adjourned: With no further business or good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm