



FEMA

US&R PROGRAM DIRECTIVE – 2017-008

June 14, 2017

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Fred Endrikat, Chief
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R Program Directive 2017-008 – US&R Radio Upgrades

Implementation Date: June 14, 2017;

Expiration Date: December 31, 2017

National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) Project 25 compliant, digital radios are due for a physical inspection as well as programming updates and functional testing. Some programming issues that need to be corrected and DHS mandated some specific channel programming that is being included to standardize interoperability. The goal is to complete this entire project before the end of 2017.

The US&R Branch and FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) have initiated a Radio Upgrade Project to accomplish this goal in two phases. The first phase is to complete the testing and re-programming of all portable radios as well as update the System KVL 3000 plus encryption key loaders. MERS Frederick and MERS Denver have combined capabilities to complete this work in phase one. The objective is to get as many of the portable radios on the new template first. The new template is backwards compatible with the old template for most of the zones in the radio so there will be negligible conflicts during the process. Phase two will include re-programming the mobile radios as well as completing many upgrades to the portable repeaters, includes a channel selector rotary switch, and the following:

- Complete physical inspection of each radio unit per a specifically designed checklist.
- Flash program each radio unit with minimum of version 12.0.0 firmware.
- Program each radio unit to the revised features / zone / channel / encryption key standard.
- Perform bench testing and fully align each radio unit to current manufacturer standards.
- Complete physical inspection of the radio.

The following enhanced radio capabilities will result from this work:

- Add two more zones for operational use.
- Replace NIFC channels with current narrow band assignments
- Update law enforcement and federal interoperability channels.
- Add DHS Mandated Interoperability zone in the required format
- Changed zone “X” to match US Coast Guard UHF channels
- Updated channel plan in UHF, VHF as well as 700/800 MHz

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Motorola XTS-5000 Personal Portable radios will be shipped to and from the System’s Herndon Warehouse for all Eastern Division and some Central Division task forces; and to and from Colorado Task Force One (CO-TF1) for all Western Division and some Central Division task forces based on the following schedule. There is room for flexibility in the schedule to meet other needs with prior coordination.

Work will be performed by MERS Communications Technicians in an assembly line process to ensure uniform procedures, quality control and high production rates. It is anticipated that this process can upgrade all radios from two System task forces per week based on actual production analysis using Incident Support Team (IST) and reserve radios for testing. To minimize the potential for leaving a task force without this communications equipment, the US&R Branch developed the schedule below after considering historical local incident risk and the *2017 National US&R Task Force Rotation Matrix*:

All Eastern Division and some Central Division Task Forces			
TASK FORCE	SHIP BY DATE	DUE TO: Herndon, VA	UPGRADE Week @Frederick MERS
NJ-TF1	Mon. June 5 th	Thur. June 8 th	June 12-16
VA-TF2	Mon. June 12 th	Thur. June 15 th	June 19-23
IN-TF1	Mon. June 19 th	Thur. June 22 nd	June 26-30
MO-TF1	Mon. July 3 rd	Thur. July 6 th	July 10-14
PA-TF1	Mon. July 10 th	Thur. July 13 th	July 17-21
FL-TF1	Mon. July 17 th	Thur. July 20 th	July 24-28
TN-TF1	Mon. July 24 th	Thur. July 27 th	July 31 - Aug 4
VA-TF1	Mon. July 31 st	Thur. Aug 3 rd	Aug 7-11
MA-TF1	Mon. Aug 7 th	Thur. Aug 10 th	Aug 14-18
FL-TF2	Mon. Aug 14 th	Thur. Aug 17 th	Aug 21-25
TX-TF1	Mon. Aug 21 st	Thur. Aug 24 th	Aug 28 - Sep 1
OH-TF1	Mon. Sept 5 th	Thur. Sept 7 th	Aug 11-15
MD-TF1	Mon. Sept 11 th	Thur. Sept 14 th	Aug 18-22
Herndon	Mon. Sept 18 th	Thur. Sept 21 st	Sept 25-29
AZ-TF1	Mon. Oct 2 nd	Thur. Oct 5 th	Oct 9-13

All Western Division and some Central Division Task Forces			
TASK FORCE	SHIP BY DATE	DUE TO: CO-TF1	UPGRADE Week @Denver MERS
CA-TF6	Mon. June 5 th	Thur. June 8 th	June 12-16
NE-TF1	Mon. June 12 th	Thur. June 15 th	June 19-23
CA-TF1	Mon. June 19 th	Thur. June 22 nd	June 26-30
NV-TF1	Mon. July 10 th	Thur. July 13 th	July 17-21
CA-TF2	Mon. July 17 th	Thur. July 20 th	July 24-28
CA-TF8	Mon. July 24 th	Thur. July 27 th	July 31 - Aug 4
CA-TF7	Mon. Aug 14 th	Thur. Aug 17 th	Aug 21-25
WA-TF1	Mon. Aug 21 st	Thur. Aug 24 th	Aug 28 - Sep 1

All Western Division and some Central Division Task Forces (cont.)			
TASK FORCE	SHIP BY DATE	DUE TO: CO-TF1	UPGRADE Week @Denver MERS
CA-TF5	Mon. Sept 5 th	Thur. Sept 7 th	Aug 11-15
UT-TF1	Mon. Sept 11 th	Thur. Sept 14 th	Aug 18-22
CA-TF3	Mon. Sept 18 th	Thur. Sept 21 st	Sept 25-29
CA-TF4	Mon. Oct 2 nd	Thur. Oct 5 th	Oct 9-13

1. The Herndon Warehouse staff will contact individual task forces on or before 10 days prior to the scheduled Upgrade Week to remind them of the upgrade and give ample time for the task force to pull their radio equipment and package it for shipment as specified below.
2. Package the portable radios two per slot in the task force's grey pelican radio case. This can be accomplished by placing them together as a sandwich and then sliding into the slot. All XTS-5000, UHF, VHF and 800MHz portable radios should be included in this packaging. **Radios only, do not include batteries, antennas or other accessories.** Complete the form "Equipment Log Sheet" to provide an inventory and include the type, barcode, radio ID and serial number. Please place the completed "Equipment Log Sheet" in the case. We prefer that the radios be aligned numerically on the work sheet and also in the cases prior to shipment.
3. When all radios are packaged for shipment, the task force will email of the number of containers and an electronic copy of the Equipment Log Sheet to:
dallas.slemp@fema.dhs.gov; bruce.barnnett@fema.dhs.gov; and btomlin@westmetrofire.org.
4. Task forces are responsible for the cost of shipping to the respective locations. The Herndon Warehouse staff will provide for the return of the radios. Task forces will place a label on each container with the following "ship to" address:

For Herndon Warehouse ship to:

From: XX-TFX
To: DHS/FEMA/US&R
Attn: RADIO Project
13990 Park Center Rd.
Herndon, Virginia 20171
(202) 359-3658

For CO-TF1 ship to:

From: XX-TFX
To: CO-TF1 /WMFR
Attn: Brian Tomlin
3535 S. Kipling St.
Lakewood, CO 80235
(303) 842-8892

If a task force is Activated for a response while their radios in the upgrade process, FEMA is prepared to overnight ship replacement radios to the response arrival destination.

Questions concerning shipping or regarding this initiative may be directed to Dallas Slemp at: Dallas.Slemp@fema.dhs.gov; or 202-359-3658.

Attachments:

2017 US&R Radio Upgrades – Radio Shipping and Upgrade Process
Equipment Log Sheet

cc:

US&R Strategic Group
US&R Advisory Group
US&R Branch Staff
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

2017 US&R Radio Upgrades – Radio Shipping and Upgrade Process

