

Interim County Executive

Steven C. Szalay



County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors

Phil Serna, District 1

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Susan Peters, District 3

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Don Nottoli, District 5

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COW Connection: Advancing Regional Emergency Radio Communication

Sacramento County is Helping to Ensure Regional First Responders Are Connected

Sacramento, CA, - Sacramento County and local emergency and public safety agencies participate in a public safety radio network that has more than 14,000 radios, numerous radio towers and covers more than 1,000 square miles. This network, called Sacramento Regional Radio Communications System (SRRCS), facilitates first responder communications.

Outside of SRRCS, some public safety agencies do not communicate on the same radio band, making radio communication difficult between all public safety personnel during a regional event or when multiple public safety agencies are responding to an emergency.



With an important new tool for regional use, Sacramento County enables radio communications across jurisdictions and agencies via its new portable trailers – Communications-on-Wheels (COW).

“Prior to having the portable radio site trailers, public safety personnel would have to carry around multiple radios to communicate,” said Mike Newburn, Sacramento County Telecommunications Systems Manager for SRRCS.

Sacramento County Radio and Electronics Division Chief, Chuck Parker, said, “The trailer is quickly deployable and within 20 minutes of arrival on scene, the COW’s interoperability platform is available to all jurisdictions and agencies served by SRRCS and to local secondary users, FBI, U.S. Marshalls, etc. for natural disasters, environmental events, protests and search and rescue. The COW is also capable of linking voice communications to the National Guard for distribution via satellite to an Emergency Operation Center (EOC).”

The COW can be requested via the Sacramento Office of Emergency Service to support emergency communications throughout the OES Region IV, which includes the following counties surrounding Sacramento County: Yolo, Placer, Nevada, El Dorado, Amador, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Alpine, Tuolumne and Stanislaus.



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Sacramento County Interim Chief Information Officer David Villanueva, said, “Any time we have the opportunity to save time, money and lives, we are thrilled. Having this kind of mobile interoperability in the Sacramento County region is truly an asset to all first responders and constituents.”

SRRCS has two portable radio site trailers that are equipped with a generator, a 30-foot tower and have the communications equipment to handle large-scale events. Each trailer cost \$245,000 and both were paid for with 25 percent SRRCS funds and the remainder with a Community Oriented Policing Services federal grant.

COW Facts

- Communications-on-Wheels (COW) is a portable trailer that facilitates interoperability
- Public safety agencies do not communicate on the same radio band
- During a regional event with multiple public safety agencies responding it is important to have communication between all public safety personnel
- Prior to portable radio site trailers, public safety personnel carried multiple radios
- The COW enables public safety agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio
- Trailer is quickly deployable and operational within 20 minutes of arrival on scene
- Available to those served by SRRCS
- Sacramento Office of Emergency Service Resource – Can be requested throughout the OES Region IV which includes 10 other counties.
- Can deploy for natural disasters, environmental events, protests and search/rescue
- Can link voice communications to the National Guard for distribution via satellite to an Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
- COW saves time, money and lives
- Sacramento Regional Radio Communications System (SRRCS) has two portable radio site trailers
- Includes communications equipment, shelter, generator, 30-foot tower and vendor build-out
- Cost \$245,000 for each – majority of cost was paid for with a COPS federal grant



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