

“Push to Spring Forward – 2015” Ensuring your radios are ready for the Summer Season

What has been a long, cold winter for many of you supporting USACE’s many lakes, dams, locks, and projects will soon come to an end!!

It is extremely important that you review and update ALL Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding with ALL local agencies to ensure continued interoperability with police, fire, and ambulance dispatch and services.

The Federal Communications Commission mandated that all public service agencies move to VHF NARROWBAND operations no later than 1 January 2013. However, some local public safety agencies may still be struggling to comply with this requirement. Some have resolved the issue by converting from VHF to 700/800 MHz operations, which are not compatible with Corps VHF radios. It is recommended that your projects touch base with local agencies to ensure they make you aware of potential changes affecting your interoperability.

Along with the approach of spring comes the approach of the busy tourist, recreation, and boating season. Many of you will bring on summer hires and temporary employees to react to the busy season and ensure the safety and security of our guests. This will likely generate a new employee radio operation training requirement for your field sites.

As you prepare for the season, busily preparing parks and recreation areas, checking out patrol boats and vehicles, ensuring radio batteries are fully charged and everything is in tip top shape, please take a minute to check out your radio devices.

Most of today’s modern radios do not require routine preventative maintenance to ensure their proper operation but there are several things the daily user can do to make sure their radio is ready when needed.

Take a few minutes to do the following before, during, and after operations checks:

- Visually inspect:
 - All components for cleanliness and serviceability
 - The radio for breaks or cracks in the case
 - The batteries and chargers for breaks, cracks, or leaks
 - The antenna for breaks or cracks in the housing
- “Push-to-Talk” and listen for expected response
- Perform operational tests with all other radios in use at the project
- Review and update local radio procedures

Performance observation is the foundation of any maintenance program and is required in the before, during, and after operations checks. Through observation, the radio user observes performance against established standards and reports problems in a timely manner before they become catastrophic. **Radios not functioning properly should be immediately reported to the ESD for repair.**

**Report radio problems to the Enterprise Service Desk
866-562-2348
<https://aceit.usace.army.mil>**