

*Statewide  
Interoperability  
Executive  
Committee*

*Hiram Grau, Director  
Illinois State Police  
Chair, State Interoperable Executive Committee*

February, 2012

To: Chief Elected/Appointed Officials in Illinois  
Special Attention: Users of VHF/UHF Radio Spectrum (150 to 512 MHz)  
From: Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)  
Subject: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Mandated Narrowband Deadline for Radio Equipment

**All public safety and governmental users that operate radios in the 150 to 512 MHz range must take several urgent actions:**

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that radio users in the 150 – 512 MHz radio bands must modify their radio systems on or before **December 31, 2012**.
- Some or all of your radios may not be legally operated after the deadline unless they have been reprogrammed for narrowband operation.
- The FCC can levy fines of up to \$10,000 per day for illegal operation after the deadline.
- Meet with your administrators, chiefs and department heads to make sure that they are aware of the pending migration to narrowband and ask what preparations they have done to become compliant.
- Check your entity's FCC radio licenses to insure that they are current and contain the narrowband emission designator(s) of 11K0F3E, 11K2F3E, 11K3F3E or other appropriate 11K narrowband emission. If the license is lacking a narrowband emission, the FCC may cancel your license after December 31, 2012. Resource information to assist with filing license modifications is attached.
- Inventory your radio assets, including base stations, mobile radios, handheld radios and emergency response pagers to insure they are narrowband compliant.
- **Non-compliant radios should be replaced before the March 31, 2012 Phase 1 (described on page 2) deadline and before essential statewide, mutual aid, and medical frequencies convert to narrowband, beginning in April 2012.**
- **Budget for programming related costs to reprogram all radios, at least twice, to facilitate the transition to narrow-band operation, and then to remove all wide-band frequencies from your radios. (An FCC requirement.)**

Since 1992, the FCC has been working to satisfy the demand for additional radio frequencies in the 150 Megahertz (MHz) to 512 MHz frequency range. Local and county governments, police, fire, public works, parks and schools are in need of additional radio frequencies to coordinate daily governmental and public safety activities. To meet this need for radio spectrum, the FCC initiated several activities to create additional usable radio channels.

To create the additional radio channels, the FCC modified its rules to shrink the footprint, or bandwidth, of a radio transmission. To use a layman's analogy, currently most public safety radio transmissions flow through a 25" diameter pipe. On or before December 31, 2012, those same transmissions must fit through a 12.5" pipe. Most radios purchased after 2000 are equipped to transmit into the 12.5" pipe. Unfortunately, thousands of radios in daily use throughout Illinois lack narrowband capability.

*Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee  
801 South Seventh Street, One Main, P.O. Box 19461  
Springfield, Illinois 62794  
Attn: Leslie Ivers, Secretary*

By now you are probably asking what all of this really means to your governmental entity. Essentially, it means that entities with radio equipment that is wideband only capable, and that is not programmable for narrowband channels, are faced with the expense of replacing some or all of their existing equipment. It would be prudent for you to inventory all of your radio equipment and check with your radio vendor, or the radio manufacturer, to see if your radio equipment is programmable for narrowband usage.

During the next ten months, Illinois entities using radio equipment in this affected frequency range must make a coordinated effort to migrate from the current wideband to the new narrow-band channels. Migration to narrowband operations for interoperable radio channels that are used between agencies, and across disciplines, in the public safety environment including IREACH, ISPERN, POINT-to-POINT, IFERN, FIREGROUND and MERCI and MED CHANNELS will be coordinated through the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. Local and regional radio systems will also require coordination, at the regional or local level. Without a coordinated effort, entities responding to an emergency could find they are unable to communicate with each other due to the disparity in emission bandwidth, even though they may share common channels. **The revised OFFICIAL NARROWBANDING CALENDAR for these channels is attached for your reference.**

The SIEC has developed a four (4) phase plan to accomplish narrowbanding of the statewide frequencies:

- Phase 1: Planning for narrowbanding, procurement of required base stations and mobile/portable radios and pagers, modifying FCC authorizations for narrowband operations. TODAY through March 31, 2012.
- Phase 2: Programming all appropriate mobile and portable radios for both wide and narrowband channels. TODAY through March 31, 2012.
- Phase 3: Convert statewide interoperable and mutual aid frequencies to narrowband operation in a COORDINATED manner. April 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.
- Phase 4: Remove all wideband transmit channels from base radios, mobile and portable radios. November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Illinois' Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee strongly urges all state, county and local governmental entities to contact your radio service provider, or your in-house radio professionals, to complete this process before narrowbanding of statewide and interoperable channels begins on April 1, 2010.

The following web-links are available to provide additional information pertaining to the FCC's narrowbanding initiative:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication/fcc-narrowbanding.htm>

<http://www.apointil.com/services/bulletin/documents/Narrowbanding.pdf>

<http://www.ilapco.org/narrowband.htm>

[http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/Executive\\_Summary%20111608.pdf](http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/Executive_Summary%20111608.pdf)

Sincerely,



Michael Zerbonia, Chairman Delegate  
Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

*Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee  
801 South Seventh Street, One Main, P.O. Box 19461  
Springfield, Illinois 62794  
Attn: Leslie Ivers, Secretary*

# ILLINOIS STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010  
REVISED JANUARY 19, 2012

### Phases for Successful Narrowband Transition:

The SIEC has developed a four (4) phase plan to accomplish narrowbanding of the statewide frequencies:

- Phase 1: Planning for narrowbanding, procurement of required base stations and mobile/portable radios and pagers, modifying FCC authorizations for narrowband operations. **TODAY through March 31, 2012.**
- Phase 2: Programming all appropriate mobile and portable radios for both wide and narrowband channels. **TODAY through March 31, 2012.**
- Phase 3: Convert statewide interoperable and mutual aid frequencies to narrowband operation in a COORDINATED manner. **April 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.**
- Phase 4: Remove all wideband transmit channels from base radios, mobile and portable radios. **November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.**

### Frequencies Affected:

**ISPERN** (155.475 MHz); **HF4** (155.460 MHz); **Point-to-Point** (155.370 MHz); **IREACH** (155.055 MHz); **ESMARN** (155.025 MHz)  
**IFERN** (154.265 MHz); **Firegrounds: RED** (153.830 MHz); **WHITE** (154.280 MHz); **BLUE** (154.295 MHz)  
**MERCI** (155.160 MHz; 155.220 MHz; 155.280 MHz; 155.340 MHz; 155.400 MHz)  
**MED 1-10** (463.000/468.000 MHz; 463.025/468.025 MHz; 463.050/468.050 MHz; 463.075/468.075 MHz; 463.100/468.100 MHz;  
463.125/468.100 MHz; 463.150/468.150 MHz; 463.175/468.175 MHz; 462.950/467.950 MHz; 462.975/467.975 MHz)

### Calendar Methodology:

**ISPERN, HF4, & Point-to-Point** to migrate based on Illinois State Police Districts on date listed.

**IREACH & ESMARN** to migrate based on Counties on date listed.

**IFERN** and **Fireground** to migrate based on MABAS Divisions on date listed.

**MERCI** and **MED Channels** to migrate based on EMS Systems on date listed. Please note that only EMS System Resource Hospitals may be listed on the attached plan. All EMS Associate Hospitals should migrate on the same date as their primary EMS System Resource Hospital.

All state and local users must plan to migrate their mobile and portable radios to narrowband operation for the frequencies specified above on the same date as their appropriate ISP District, County, MABAS DIVISION AND EMS System.

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

## REVISED JANUARY 19, 2012

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

| ~ April 2012 ~ |   |   |   |           |           |           |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sun            | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu       | Fri       | Sat       |
| <b>1</b>       | <b>2</b><br>ISP DISTRICTS 13, 19, 22<br><br>JODAVIESS<br>PIKE<br>ALEXANDER  | <b>3</b><br><br>STEPHENSON<br>ADAMS<br>PULASKI    | <b>4</b><br><br>WINNEBAGO<br>BOONE<br>BROWN<br>MASSAC | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b>       | <b>9</b><br>ISP DISTRICTS 11, 12, 18<br><br>CARROLL<br>HENDERSON<br>CALHOUN | <b>10</b><br><br>OGLE<br>WARREN<br>GREENE         | <b>11</b><br><br>WHITESIDE<br>HANCOCK<br>JERSEY       | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b>      | <b>16</b><br>ISP DISTRICTS 9, 14, 20<br><br>LEE<br>MCDONOUGH<br>MACOUPIN    | <b>17</b><br><br>DEKALB<br>SCHUYLER<br>MONTGOMERY | <b>18</b><br><br>KANE<br>FULTON<br>BOND               | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b>      | <b>23</b><br>ISP DISTRICTS 6, 10, 21<br><br>STARK<br>MARSHALL<br>FAYETTE    | <b>24</b><br><br>PEORIA<br>SHELBY                 | <b>25</b><br><br>WOODFORD<br>MOULTRIE                 | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b>      | <b>30</b><br>ISP DISTRICTS 7, 8, 17   | <b>Notes:</b>                                     |   |           |           |           |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

## REVISED JANUARY 19, 2012

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

| ~ May 2012 ~ |   |   |  |                          |        |     |
|--------------|---|---|--|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| Sun          | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                                    | Thu                      | Fri    | Sat |
|              |   | 1   | 2                                      | 3                        | 4      | 5   |
| 6            | 7<br>TAZWELL<br>DOUGLAS                           | 8<br>MASON<br>COLES                           | 9<br>LOGAN<br>EDGAR<br>CALHOUN         | 10                       | 11     | 12  |
| 13           | 14<br>LASALLE<br>DEWITT<br>CUMBERLAND<br>CLARK    | 15<br>BUREAU<br>PUTNUM<br>MCLEAN<br>JASPER    | 16<br>HENRY<br>LIVINGSTON<br>EFFINGHAM | 17                       | 18     | 19  |
| 20           | 21<br>ROCK ISLAND<br>FORD<br>LAWRENCE<br>RICHLAND | 22<br>MERCER<br>KANKAKEE<br>EDWARDS<br>WABASH | 23<br>KNOX<br>CLAY                     | 24                       | 25     | 26  |
| 27           | 28  | 29<br>VERMILLION<br>WAYNE                     | 30<br>CHAMPAIGN<br>MARION              | 31<br>PIATT<br>JEFFERSON | Notes: |     |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

## REVISED JANUARY 19, 2012

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

| ~ June 2012 ~ |  |                                  |   |     |     |     |
|---------------|--|----------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun           | Mon  | Tue                              | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|               |  |                                  |   |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3             | 4<br>ISP DISTRICTS 1, 16<br><br>MACON<br>CLINTON                 | 5<br><br>CHRISTIAN<br>MADISON    | 6<br><br>MENARD<br>WASHINGTON                   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10            | 11<br>ISP DISTRICTS 2, 5<br><br>SANGAMON<br>ST. CLAIR<br>MCHENRY | 12<br><br>CASS<br>MONROE<br>LAKE | 13<br><br>MORGAN<br>SCOTT<br>RANDOLPH<br>DUPAGE | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17            | 18<br>ISP DISTRICTS 15,<br>CHICAGO<br><br>PERRY<br>WILL          | 19<br><br>FRANKLIN<br>KENDALL    | 20<br><br>HAMILTON<br>GRUNDY                    | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24            | 25<br><br>GALLATIN<br>WHITE<br>SALINE<br>COOK                    | 26<br><br>WILLIAMSON             | 27<br><br>JACKSON                               | 28  | 29  | 30  |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

**MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS**

**COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN  
EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED**

| ~ July 2012 ~ |  |  |   |   |                         |     |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|-----|
| Sun           | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri                     | Sat |
| 1             | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6                       | 7   |
| 8             | <b>9</b><br>MABAS DIVS 8, 49<br><br>UNION<br><br>CONDELL<br>LAKE FOREST      | <b>10</b><br>MABAS DIVS 16, 17, 29<br><br>JOHNSON<br><br>VISTA EAST & WEST<br>MIDWEST REGIONAL | <b>11</b><br>MABAS DIVS 18, 30, 38<br><br>POPE<br>HARDIN<br><br>HIGHLAND PARK | <b>12</b><br><br>ST. FRANCIS<br>EVANSTON<br>GLENBROOK<br>RUSH NORTH SHORE | 13                      | 14  |
| 15            | <b>16</b><br>MABAS DIVS 43, 57<br><br>CENTEGRA - NIMC<br>CENTEGRA - WOODSTCK | <b>17</b><br>MABAS DIVS 25, 39<br><br>NW COMMUNITY<br>GOOD SHEPARD                             | <b>18</b><br>MABAS DIVS 31, 60<br><br>SHERMAN                                 | <b>19</b><br><br>ST. JOSEPHS (ELGIN)                                      | <b>20</b><br><br>DELNOR | 21  |
| 22            | <b>23</b><br>MABAS DIVS 23, 42<br><br>CENTRAL DUPAGE                         | <b>24</b><br>MABAS DIVS 33, 36<br><br>EDWARD   | <b>25</b><br>MABAS DIVS 41, 53, 62<br><br>GOOD SAMARITAN                      | <b>26</b><br><br>LOYOLA   | 27                      | 28  |
| 29            | <b>30</b><br>MABAS DIVS 48, 61, 67<br><br>CHRIST                             | <b>31</b><br>MABAS DIVS 44, 51, 56<br><br>SILVER CROSS   | <b>Notes:</b>   |   |                         |     |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS

EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED

| ~ August 2012 ~ |  |  |  |                                     |                                      |               |
|-----------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sun             | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu                                 | Fri                                  | Sat           |
|                 |  |  | <b>1</b><br>MABAS DIVS 50, 66<br><br>INGALLS             | <b>2</b><br><br>ST MARYS (KANKAKEE) | <b>3</b><br><br>RIVERSIDE            | <b>4</b>      |
| <b>5</b>        | <b>6</b><br>MABAS DIVS 34, 35<br><br>CARLE                 | <b>7</b><br>MABAS DIVS 58                                | <b>8</b><br>MABAS DIVS 32<br><br>COVENANT (URBANA)       | <b>9</b>                            | <b>10</b>                            | <b>11</b>     |
| <b>12</b>       | <b>13</b><br>MABAS DIVS 47<br><br>ST MARYS (DECATUR)       | <b>14</b><br>MABAS DIVS 52<br><br>SARA BUSH LINCOLN      | <b>15</b><br>MABAS DIVS 45<br><br>CRAWFORD               | <b>16</b>                           | <b>17</b>                            | <b>18</b>     |
| <b>19</b>       | <b>20</b><br>MABAS DIVS 28, 54<br><br>GOOD SAM (MT VERNON) | <b>21</b><br>MABAS DIVS 26, 63<br><br>FAIRFIELD MEMORIAL | <b>22</b><br>MABAS DIVS 46, 59<br><br>HEARTLAND HOSPITAL | <b>23</b><br><br>MEMORIAL (CARBNDL) | <b>24</b><br><br>MASSAC MEMORIAL     | <b>25</b>     |
| <b>26</b>       | <b>27</b><br>MABAS DIVS 37<br><br>GREENVILLE REGIONAL      | <b>28</b><br>MABAS DIVS 40<br><br>MEMORIAL (BELLEVILLE)  | <b>29</b><br>MABAS DIVS 7, 15<br><br>ANDERSON HOSPITAL   | <b>30</b><br><br>ALTON MEMORIAL     | <b>31</b><br><br>ST ANTHONYS (ALTON) | <b>Notes:</b> |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

**MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS**

**EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED**

| ~ September 2012 ~ |   |  |   |                           |                             |     |
|--------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Sun                | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu                       | Fri                         | Sat |
|                    |   |  |   |                           |                             | 1   |
| 2                  | 3   | 4<br>MABAS DIVS 14, 19<br>JERSEY COMMUNITY   | 5<br>MABAS DIVS 27<br>BLESSING HOSPITAL       | 6<br>PASSAVANT HOSPITAL   | 7                           | 8   |
| 9                  | 10<br>MABAS DIVS 10, 12<br>ST JOHNS (SPRINGFIELD) | 11<br>MABAS DIVS 13, 6                       | 12<br>MABAS DIVS 2<br>MEMORIAL (SPRINGFLD)    | 13                        | 14                          | 15  |
| 16                 | 17<br>MABAS DIVS 4, 5<br>ST JOES (BLOOMINGTN)     | 18<br>MABAS DIVS 1, 3, 9<br>BROMENN REGIONAL | 19<br>MABAS DIVS 11, 20<br>ST JAMES (PONTIAC) | 20<br>ST FRANCIS (PEORIA) | 21                          | 22  |
| 23                 | 24<br>MABAS DIVS 21<br>ST MARYS (GALESBURG)       | 25<br>MABAS DIVS 22<br>GALESBURG COTTAGE     | 26<br>MABAS DIVS 24<br>KEWANEE HOSPITAL       | 27<br>GENESIS HOSPITAL    | 28<br>TRINITY (ROCK ISLAND) | 29  |
| 30                 | <b>Notes:</b>                                     |  |   |                           |                             |     |

# ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

**MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS**

**EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED**

| ~ October 2012 ~ |                          |                        |                          |        |     |     |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----|-----|
| Sun              | Mon                      | Tue                    | Wed                      | Thu    | Fri | Sat |
|                  | 1<br>ILLINOIS VALLEY     | 2<br>OTTAWA REGIONAL   | 3<br>ST MARYS (STREATOR) | 4      | 5   | 6   |
| 7                | 8<br>ST ANTHONY (ROCKFD) | 9<br>ROCKFORD MEMORIAL | 10<br>SWEDISH AMERICAN   | 11     | 12  | 13  |
| 14               | 15<br>KATHERINE SHAW     | 16<br>KISHWAUKEE COMM  | 17                       | 18     | 19  | 20  |
| 21               | 22                       | 23                     | 24                       | 25     | 26  | 27  |
| 28               | 29                       | 30                     | 31                       | Notes: |     |     |