



New microwave radio network completed!

By Craig Clark

The City of Fort Worth Radio Services has recently completed its microwave radio upgrade project. This new system is now equipped with MPLS which will allow for high speed data traffic. The microwave system carries all radio system voice and data traffic as well other data services to various tower sites throughout Tarrant County.

Testing non-Motorola radios

Technicians with the City of Fort Worth Radio Services have begun testing of P25 radios from Kenwood, E.F. Johnson and Harris. The test will consist of everything from audio quality to battery talk time to programming. At the end of June, we will begin looking at the test results and publishing our findings in the next newsletter.

Radio Tip

Proper radio installation is the key!

Whether you are a Public Safety radio user or a general radio user, you depend on your radio to help get the job done. If your radio is not installed properly, then your radio may not be very reliable. Here are some basic tips for a good installation.

Good power connection

When connecting your radio to the vehicle power source, always, connect the radio power cable as close to the battery voltage source as possible. This will vary from vehicle model to vehicle model but, a typical radio draws about 7 to 8 amps when transmitting. If you are connected to a weak voltage source, your radio transmit power will be low and your transmission may not get out. Also, ensure that all connectors are crimped tight and if possible, solder the connectors. This will help ensure that no corrosion gets into the wire.



Important Note! Always use the radio manufacture recommended gauge power wire!

Antenna

The radio antenna is the most important part of a good working radio. Without it, you are not talking! When installing the antenna, the preferred location is the roof of the vehicle. This location is the highest point of the vehicle and you will be clear of any metal obstacles that might interfere with the radio signal. When installing the antenna connector, always, follow the manufactures recommend installation instructions. If the connector is not properly installed, you could end up with intermittent transmissions or noisy receive signal.



Microphone mount

When installing the radio microphone, always, mount it in a spot where the operator can easily reach it and is clear of any air bags.



Following some of these basic tips, will ensure that your two way radio will work reliably.