

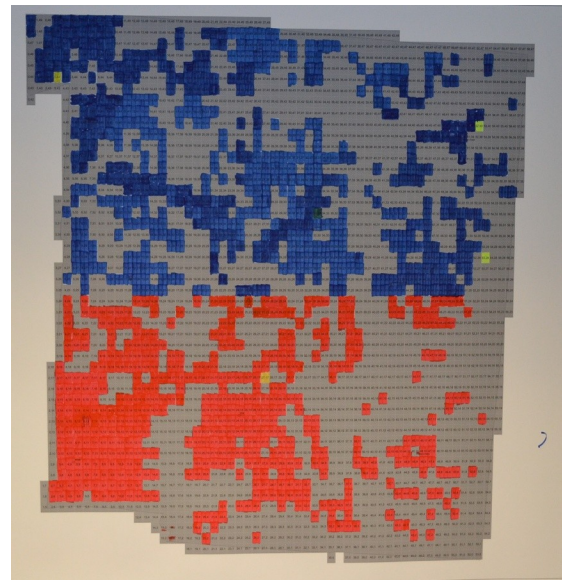
The Many Benefits of our Digital Radio System

Leading up to the digital switch, we understand the benefit that overwhelmingly rang in our subscribers ears was 'statewide roaming.' Believe us, we love(d) the idea too! Being an early adopter of the State's MARCS IP system meant a steep learning curve for all involved! What no one accounted for was the taxing load one county's radio traffic would put on other county's systems who also subscribe to MARCS IP. It wasn't until we were up and running that the impact of statewide roaming was realized, by us and neighboring counties. It's been explained to the Chiefs Associations but for the sake of boring our subscribers with 'tech-jargon' we instead focused on getting straight to the end result of "Strategic Roaming" in last month's cover article. But for those who want more explanation: with 'statewide roaming' set for all talkgroups, if a Warren County radio user travels into another MARCS-subscribing County, it will latch onto that County's towers since it offers better signal strength. This results in the Warren County user 'stealing' one of a limited amount of radio resources from the County it's operating in. While Warren County is fortunate to own 20 resources/frequencies, some neighboring Counties only have 4-5. If that county has 4 dispatchers sitting 24/7 on a monitored talkgroup like we do, you'd box out a dispatcher from doing their job. While it has only been an issue between Warren and Greene Counties these recent months, the 'stealing of resources' is only going to become more complicated with Butler County's recent "plugging in" to MARCS IP this past month. Clermont and Clinton are slated in the next year, with Montgomery County close behind. The counties with fewer resources/frequencies could realistically be maxed out by users who don't even belong to their radio system! Rather than wait and play catch-up, the SW Ohio counties are being proactive in agreeing to a mutual Standard of Operations Procedure known as the "Warren County Accord." It outlines what types of talkgroups can roam 1) County-only, 2) one-County surround, or 3) statewide just as Warren County instituted on August 18th.

So while some users mourn the 'what might have been' regarding Statewide roaming, we want to remind you of the several other benefits we're receiving with the digital system. Digital isn't synonymous with 'statewide'. Digital is the method of HOW the radio communications are transmitted; and they're transmitting extraordinarily!

So here are some reasons for celebration

1. Better Coverage within Warren County - remember this? The 'Blue Team' and 'Red Team' comprised of Telecom, Motorola, Mobilcomm and public safety volunteers spent a painstaking week driving into square mile grids to test signal strength, resulting in never-seen-before coverage improvement!



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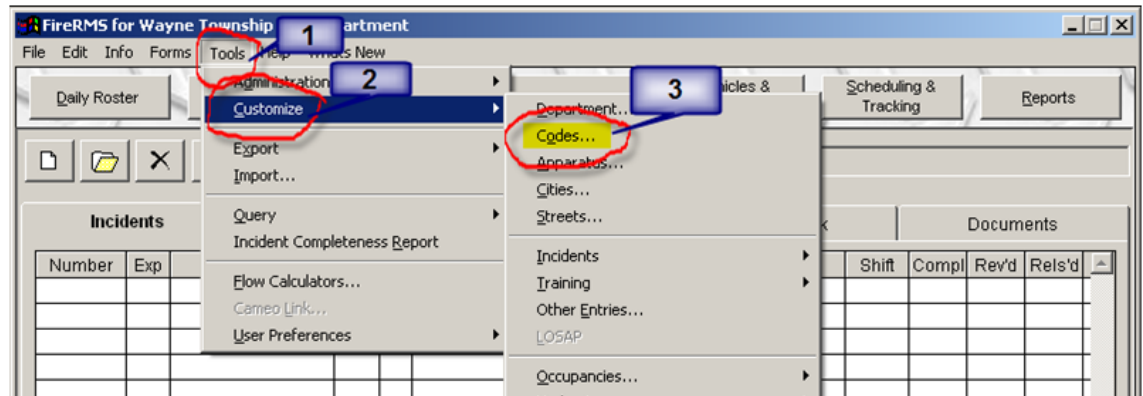


FRMS How to Add Agencies to Mutual Aid List

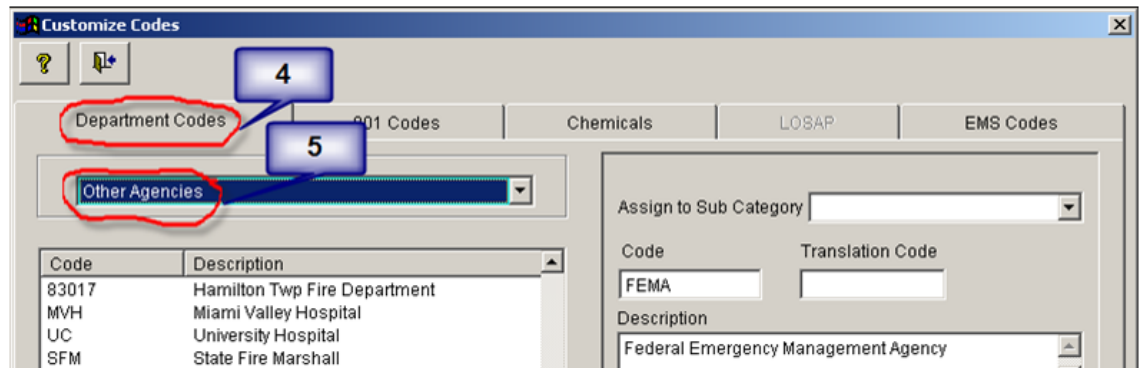
THE QUESTION: Our ATV made a mutual aid to Brown County the other night. However to complete our report the department name is not in the mutual aid list. How do we add them?

THE ANSWER:

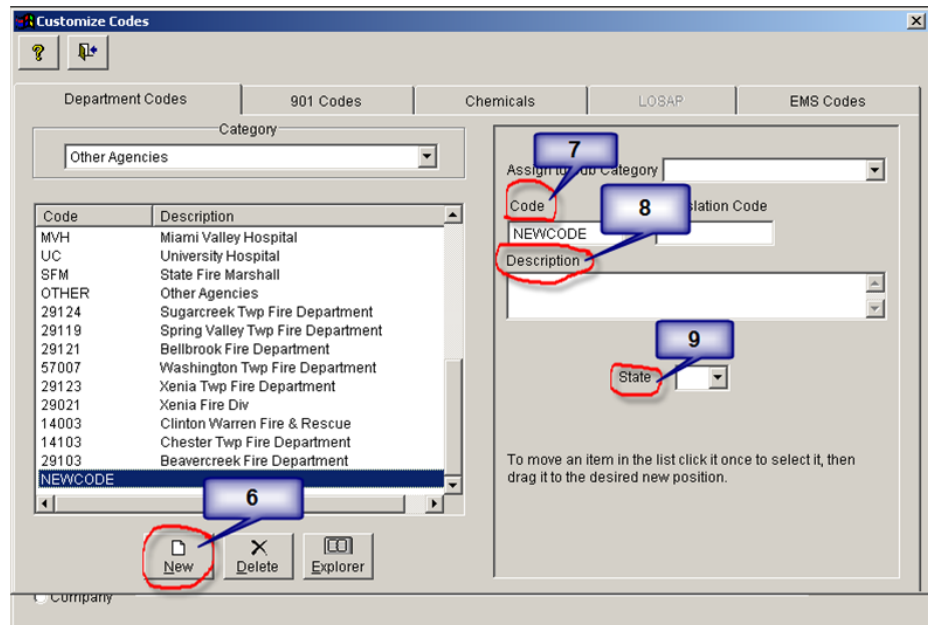
1. Select Tools.
2. Select Customize.
3. Select Codes.



4. Select Department Codes tab
5. From drop down, select "Other Agencies"



6. At bottom of box, click New button then click <Add>.
7. Fill in the Code (Most agencies use the FDID number as the code but this can be anything you want.)
8. Type in a Description
9. Select the correct State (these are all that are required).

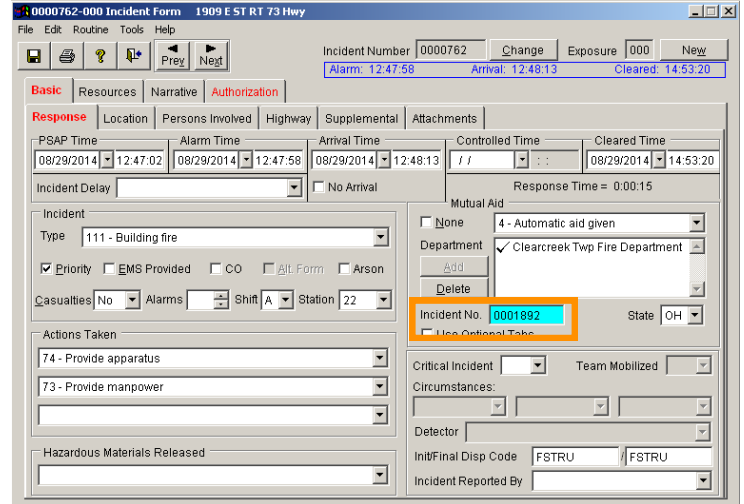
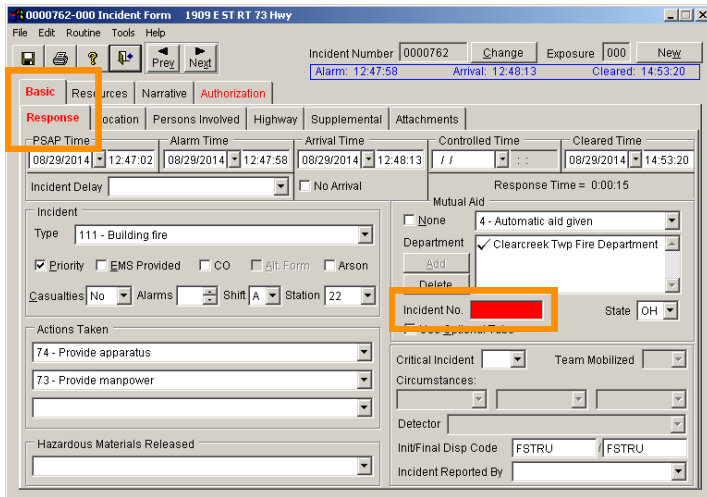


TO SAVE THE NEW ENTRY:

CLOSE THE DOOR in top left corner then sign out and back in. The agency you just added should now be in the Department box under Mutual Aid.

A BIG CHANGE: FRMS UPGRADE

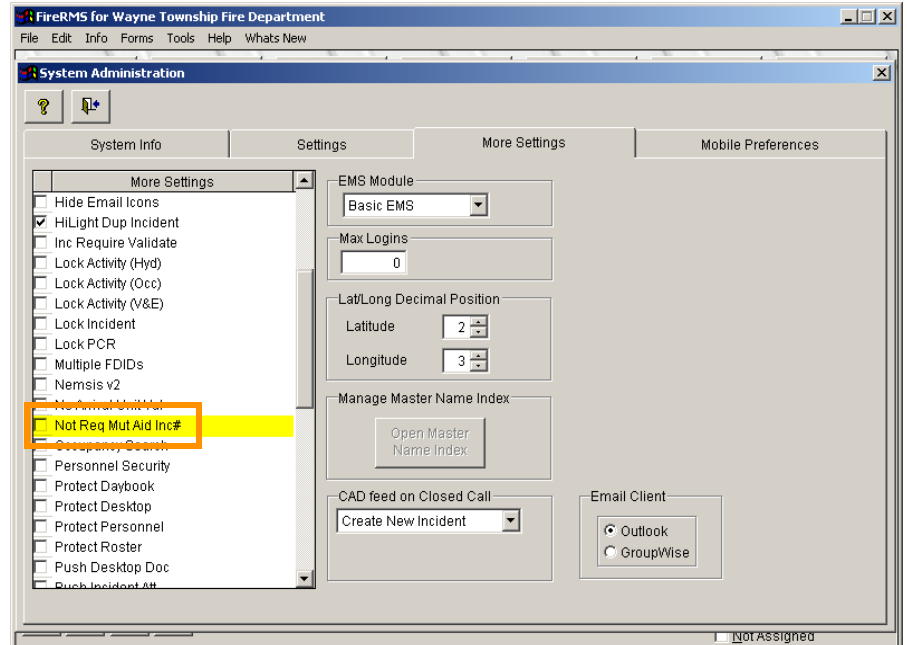
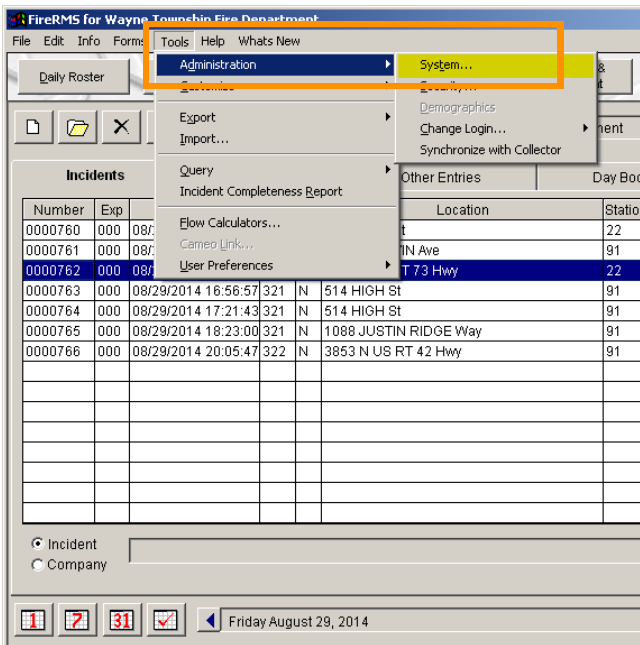
When Mutual Aid is set to either “code 3 - Mutual Aid Given” or “code 4 – Automatic Aid Given”, the **Incident Number is now required on the Basic, Response tab**. This is a new field being used to cut down on the amount of duplicate incidents being reported for the same incident. OFIRS & NFIRS are looking for either the “Incident” Number (if known) or the FDID Number of the agency you are providing mutual aid to. It is important to remember that this is NOT the CAD Incident Number. The number they are looking for is the FireRMS Incident Number.



The State of Ohio is not currently enforcing collection of this data. **If you wish to disable the required setting for mutual aid incident numbers, follow the string of steps below from the release notes.**

Select Tools —> Administration —> System —> More Settings Tab —> “Not Required Mut Aid Inc#”.




When this is selected, users will not need to add the Incident Number of the Agency to whom Aid is provided when reporting a “code 3 – Mutual Aid Given” or “code 4 – Automatic Aid Given” incident.



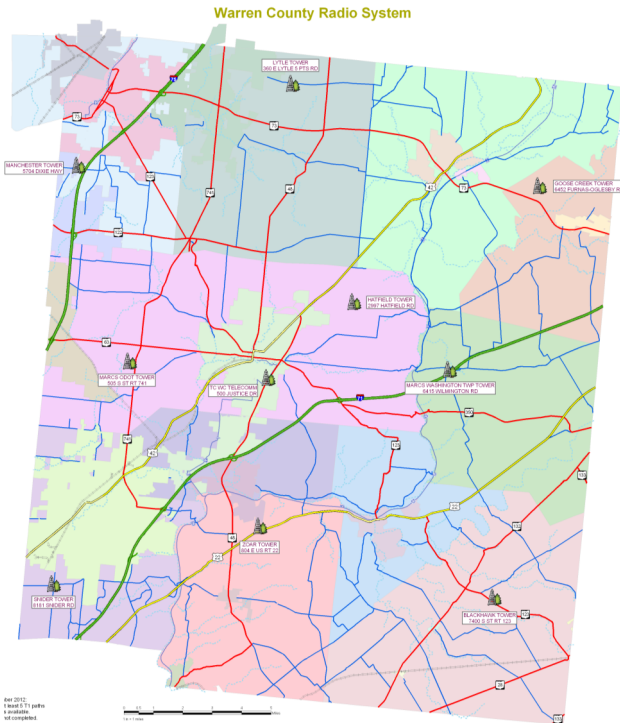
The Many Benefits of our Digital Radio System

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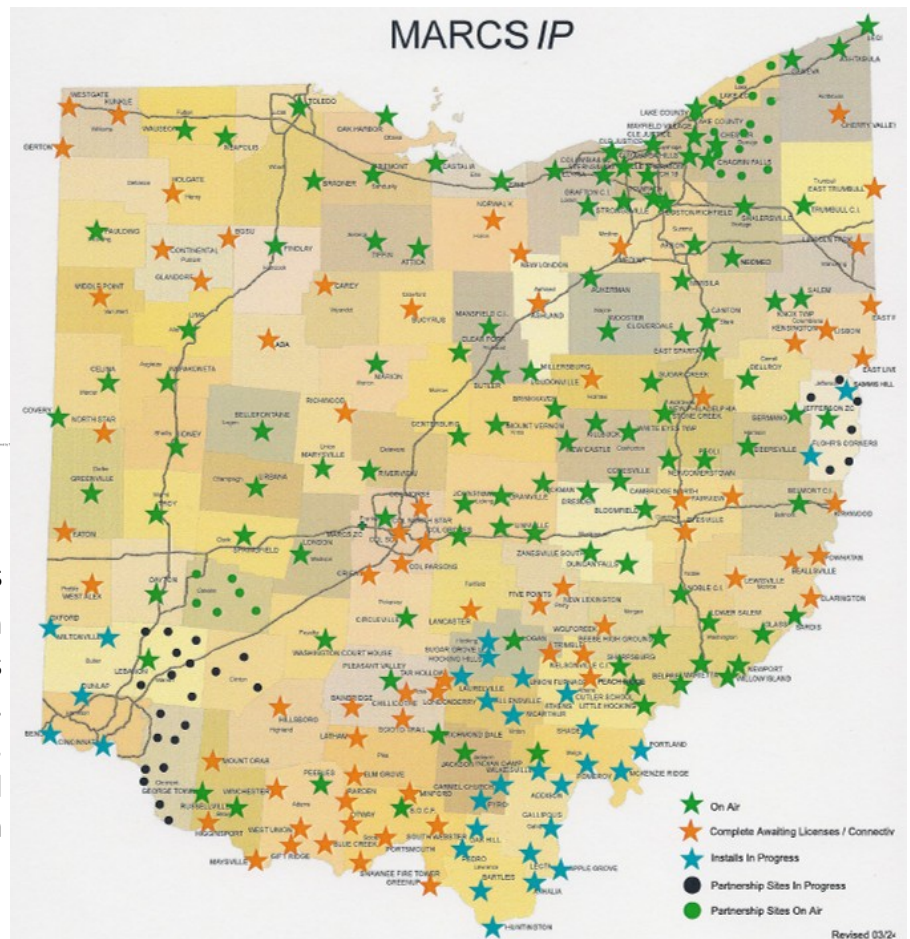
2. Encryption—digital technology allows us to block scanners from listening to our traffic on subject-matter-sensitive talkgroups like Inquiry and Drug Task Force. This was not possible on our analog system.

Secure Operation	
	• On = Secure operation.
Top Display 	• Off = Clear operation.
	• Blinking = Receiving an encrypted voice call.

3. More Simultaneous Conversations—our old analog system had the capacity for 14 simultaneous conversations, meaning 14 different talkgroups could be actively talking at the same time. Once we gain 5 channels from MARCS in the coming year, we'll have capacity for 19 simultaneous conversations! Additionally, this will become important when neighboring counties join MARCS and activate their limited list of talkgroups that can roam 1-county surround and statewide like we have. Their use of our resources will have less impact on us and our conversation capacity.



4. MORE In-County Towers—get it? 4 more towers! These fill in the pockets of our county that previously had less-than-stellar coverage. They also amped up our microwave link network and data network. And if you need a WIFI hotspot, here are 4 more!



5. Access to State Towers—it's because of our digital switch and affiliation with MARCS that we can access state towers for expanded coverage past Warren County. Remember, the MATAcS, MAMAYDAYs, HAILING, WCSO-3, Lebanon PD 2, and Franklin PD 2 work statewide, jumping from State tower to State tower along the way.

When mutual aiding into Butler County, switch to MATAAC 11 (Zone D for Fire / Zone E for most Law)

If the incident grows, Incident Command can first assign MATAAC 12, then MATAAC 1 and 2.



Programming order for getting Warren County radios compatible with Butler County MARCS IP:

1. Warren Co. agencies that border Butler Co and regularly mutual aid for them
2. APX portables
3. XTS portables
4. Mobiles

Once your agency has the new Butler County MARCS IP talkgroups, you can begin mutual aiding on their directed talkgroup. Notice former talkgroup prefixes 'BC' are now '09' (e.g. 'BC MA' is now '09 MA').

MATAACs are a regional set of talkgroups that all neighboring Counties will program into their radios as they join MARCS IP. It's an alternative to programming each other's systems into our radios, adding endless zones of talkgroups. As of October 2014, MATAACs are operational between Butler, Warren, and Greene Counties, with the remaining bordering Counties coming on board in the next 2 years.

Law

BC Zone 1	BC Zone 2
09 CALL	09 EVNT 01
09 TALK	09 EVNT 02
09 LE INFO	09 EVNT 03
09 J-CALL	09 EVNT 04
09 LAW 05	09 MA 05
09 LAW 06	09 MA 06
09 LAW 07	09 MA 07
09 LAW 08	09 MA 08
09 LAW 09	09 MA 09
09 LAW 10	09 MA 10
09 LAW 11	09 MA 11
09 LAW 12	09 MA 12
09 LAW 13	09 MA 13
09 LAW 14	09 MA 14
09 LAW 15	09 MA 15
09 LAW 16	09 MA 16

Fire

BC Zone 1	BC Zone 2
09 CALL	09 EVNT 01
09 TALK	09 EVNT 02
09 FD INFO	09 EVNT 03
09 EVNT 04	09 EVNT 04
09 FIRE 05	09 MA 05
09 FIRE 06	09 MA 06
09 FIRE 07	09 MA 07
09 FIRE 08	09 MA 08
09 FIRE 09	09 MA 09
09 FIRE 10	09 MA 10
09 FIRE 11	09 MA 11
09 FIRE 12	09 MA 12
09 FIRE 13	09 MA 13
09 FIRE 14	09 MA 14
09 FIRE 15	09 MA 15
09 FIRE 16	09 MA 16

RADIO REFRESHER CLASS FOR FIRE/EMS SERVICE

Wednesday, October 15th | 9-11am or 4-6pm
@ County EOC (500 Justice Drive in Lebanon)



(max 25 students per session)

This is open to all fire/EMS agencies in Warren County

Portable and mobile anatomy - XTS & APX | Button and programming configuration
Talkgroup template explanation | Emergency Button Procedure

More sessions will be scheduled if these two get a positive response.

REGISTER to allison.lyons@wcoh.net with Subject Line: "FIRE Radio Refresher RSVP"
Seats will be reserved in the order that emails are received.

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RADIO REFRESHER CLASS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Thursday, October 16th | 9-11am or 4-6pm
@ County EOC (500 Justice Drive in Lebanon)



(max 25 students per session)

This is open to all law enforcement agencies in Warren County

Portable and mobile anatomy - XTS & APX | Button and programming configuration
Talkgroup template explanation | Emergency Button Procedure

More sessions will be scheduled if these two get a positive response.

REGISTER to allison.lyons@wcoh.net with Subject Line: "Radio Refresher RSVP"
Seats will be reserved in the order that emails are received.

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www.YouTube.com/warrencountytelecom

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Public Safety Technology Review hosted by Data Systems Team

Thursday, November 13th @ Commissioners' Meeting Room

Purpose: review new products from new and current vendors.

Includes lunch.

RSVP your headcount to Jeff.Cepin@wcoh.net by November 11th

Editing your Scan List

1) Press and hold the scan button - bottom side on portable, soft key under 'SCAN' on mobile.

- A small square flashes in the upper right corner of the display indicating the programming mode
- SEL, DEL, and RCL display above soft keys

2) Left/right arrow between zones + scroll channel selector knob to navigate talkgroups

3) Press the button below SEL or DEL or RCL

- SEL = add the currently displayed talkgroup to the scan list, a **Z** will appear. Press twice to add a **Z**, making it 2nd priority in your scan list. If this talkgroup and another key up at the same time, your radio will pick your second priority.
- DEL = delete the currently displayed talkgroup from the scan list
- RCL = view your current scan list roster

NOTE: Priority-one is automatically the talkgroup you're sitting on. You can't edit this.

4) Press HOME to switch out of the programming position

