



Westmoreland County Department of Emergency Services

Division of Emergency Management

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MONTHLY UPDATE DECEMBER 2025

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Introduction

The purpose of the Update Brief is to provide staff and leadership with a clear, comprehensive overview of ongoing radio communications projects, operational enhancements, and upcoming milestones. This briefing ensures that all departments remain informed, aligned, and prepared for upcoming changes, while promoting transparency, coordination, and effective decision-making across the organization.

Requests to be added or removed can be sent to radiohelp@westmoreland-county.org.

December 2026 Completed

- Emergency Communications Center encryption completed ahead of schedule
- IoT account established (estimated savings of \$22,000 annually in LTE and cellular expenses)
- Cradlepoints programmed for each Company/Station to support over the air programming
- Co 4 MDTs installed (DEC 20, 2025)
- WCES Cradlepoints are installed

January 2026 Goals

- Distribute Cradlepoints to all departments
- Receive flashcodes for all APX8000 and 8500 radios
- Migrate APX8000 / APX 8500 to Radio Central
- Complete turn in of all APX6000 radios

Mount Holly Annex

The Emergency Management division runs special response and technology operations from the annex located at the address below. All appointments are at this location.

65 Mt Holly Road
Montross, VA 22520

Support Requests:

radiohelp@westmoreland-county.org

Phone: 804-410-7123

CRITICAL UPDATES

Radios

- APXnext Radios are updated every Sunday
 - Please ensure your radio is turned on for at least 15 minutes once a week to receive firmware updates and programming changes.
- Battery lifecycle management
 - The lifespan of a Motorola APX 8000 battery is 3 years. Batteries will begin to degrade after this time and impact the power output of the portable. This will impact the distance the portable can communicate and may result in the signal falling short of reaching the repeater.
 - Please check your batteries and schedule an appointment for replacement if your battery was manufactured prior to 2023



First two digits are year, last two are week.

1325

13=Year
25=Week

- Error Messages
 - Users experiencing “Registration Failed” or “Key Fail” message should submit a support request.

Encryption

The encryption migration will be completed by 30 SEP 2026.

- **Minitor pagers are *not capable of receiving encryption*. We are researching alternatives**
- **APX & Harris Radios not refreshed will not receive voice communications**
- Key distribution is limited to county owned devices and those covered via the communications MOU with county agencies and our mutual aid partners.
- Key loading will occur as part of the lifecycle/refresh program. No need to schedule an appointment.
- Instructions will be added to the Communications Operating Instructions and made available to all staff.

ONGOING PROJECTS**Fleetwide Radio Refresh (Due September 30, 2026)**

Each radio in the fleet will undergo a refresh. This includes:

- Adding new radio capabilities to include 7/800, trunking, and WiFi
- Replacing batteries (if required)
- Updating standardized codeplug
- Installing new encryption keys
- Updating IDs in Motorola Configuration Manager

January

- Provide cradle point access at each station to support radio programming.
- Receive flash codes to enable wifi capability in all APX8000 and 8500 radios
- Turn in all APX6000 radios

February

- Sheriff vehicles and radios updated by appointment
- EMS vehicles and radios updated by station
- Departments to turn in all spares and non-critical radios for reprogramming
 - These radios will be used to facilitate department wide upgrades by wave

Department Rollout Schedule (Vehicle mounted portables and mobiles)

- **March 14-16:** Company 6
- **March 21-23:** Company 5
- **April 11-13:** Company 4
- **May 9-11:** Company 3
- **June 6-8:** Company 2
- **July 18-20:** Company 1

August

- ~~New encryption keys loaded into ECC radios~~ **Completed**
- Begin testing of encryption between ECC and field.
- Final opportunity for radios issued to individuals to be programmed

September

- Final testing and systemwide encryption cutover
- Radios not turned in for required programming will **no longer receive voice traffic**
- Minitor pagers will **no longer receive voice traffic**
- Active 911 will not be impacted

October

- School radios added to the network (APX6000)

Active 911 Updates

All requests for removal or new user activation should be sent to the radio help email address. CBVRS accounts have been suspended pending affiliation with another department or the county-wide volunteer program

Over the Air Programming

Motorola and ComSpec continue to collaborate on the implementation of Over-the-Air Programming (OTAP). The Intelligent Middleware (IMW) is currently undergoing reconfiguration, and validation testing is in progress to ensure proper functionality and system stability.

In parallel, efforts have begun to transition OTAP support to a Wi-Fi-based architecture. Each station will be equipped with a Cradlepoint router to provide secure wireless connectivity for this purpose. Following the upgrade of radio firmware to enable Wi-Fi capability, radios will be able to automatically connect to the network upon power-up and receive configuration updates and firmware deployments without manual intervention.

Paging Solution

As we move forward with system upgrades, we will exceed the capabilities of the Motorola Minitor Series of pagers. We have begun planning to validate the Unication G5 pagers' ability to support our current encryption requirements and ensure readiness for the agency's planned transition to a P25 Phase II (TDMA) 700 MHz trunked radio system. The goal is to confirm operational compatibility today while reducing technical and operational risk during future system upgrades.

The testing approach is designed to confirm three key areas:

- Encryption Support – Verify the pagers reliably receive encrypted traffic consistent with our current and planned security standards.
- P25 Phase II Readiness – Confirm compatibility with TDMA operation prior to system migration.
- Future Upgrade Stability – Ensure pager firmware and configurations remain stable through system enhancements and upgrades.

AGENCY SPECIFIC UPDATES**Sheriff's Office**

- Cell phone migration
 - Devices are ready to migrate to FN
 - Personnel not needing to keep their current number may migrate first
 - A list of names and associated phone numbers is needed to begin migration
- Radio upgrade and removal of APX 6000s
 - We have established a list of deputies with radios that require replacement. These radios will be recalled in July and replaced.

Colonial Beach Police Department

- Need to inventory all radio equipment to support impact assessment
- Bring capable systems online with Radio Central
- Identify and replace out of scope hardware

Division of Emergency Medical Services

- Medic units require portable upgrades
- Cradlepoints installed on all units

Division of Emergency Management

- CERT Team development pending
- Receive updated flash codes
- Receive APX 8000 battery delivery
- Conduct testing of Unication G5 pager
- Onboard APX 8000 / 8500 to Radio Central
- Test G5 pagers with OGVFD

Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department

- Upgrades are ready for officer portables
 - Each officer will have to schedule an appointment to turn in old equipment and pick up the new. Training is provided at time of pickup.
- WiFi upgrades required for all radios
- Cradlepoint install pending

Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department

- Upgrades are ready for officer portables
 - Each officer will have to schedule an appointment to turn in old equipment and pick up the new. Training is provided at time of pickup.
- WiFi upgrades required for all radios
- MDT project planning required
- Cradlepoint install pending

Cople District Volunteer Fire Department

- MDT project planning required
- WiFi upgrades required for all radios
- Cradlepoint install pending
- County account for the Chief has been established

Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department

- Company 4 has received 3 of 5 MDTs and mounts.
- MDT for Response and Tanker required
- Assist with G5 pager testing
- WiFi upgrades required for all radios
- County account for the Chief has been established
- Cradlepoint install pending