



## ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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# Project Update

## MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

*September 8, 2008*

### Update to I/Mobile for CHAIRS Searches

On Monday, September 15, RadioIP will be in Syracuse to add a third network path to the communications server that will allow agencies to use commercial wireless broadband access to the mobile data system. This means that in addition to the Dataradio RF network and County 802.11 hotspots, agencies will also be able to use “aircards” from Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, etc. to have the I/Mobile client send and receive from the CAD server (currently, the test aircards can ONLY use the broadband network and cannot “fall back” to the RF or 802.11 systems). After an initial test period, agencies that desire to use this alternative will be able to acquire aircards at their expense from the provider of their choice and the 911 Center technical staff will configure their MDTs to utilize the aircard. If an agency wants to take advantage of this technology, the agency must obtain the aircard and service. The County will continue to support the Dataradio RF network and 802.11 hotspots.

Towards that end, Dataradio has proposed adding additional transmitter resources to augment coverage, and the County will be working to implement some of their recommendations. However, the State has “frozen” any license changes in the 800 MHz band as part of the “refarming” process related to Sprint/Nextel, so we are unable to obtain additional frequencies or reuse ones we currently possess at this time. We will be continuing to refine the four transmitters currently in place to obtain the best possible service.

The Department of Information Technology would like us to remind all agencies that utilize aircards that if the County is performing maintenance on its Internet connections, the aircard access will be out of service. This occurred last week and many agencies were unaware that aircards won't access the CAD system if the County's Internet connection is off-line. This is why it is so important that MDTs have the option to “fall back” to the RF network.

Once the network upgrade is completed, a FAQ sheet with information on how the RadioIP system works will be provided to all agencies, so they may better understand how the process works. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the 911 Center Technical Services Office at 435-7911.

*By: PSSS Edward Healy, Technical Services Office*

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