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Kent, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet Counties Joining MPSCS

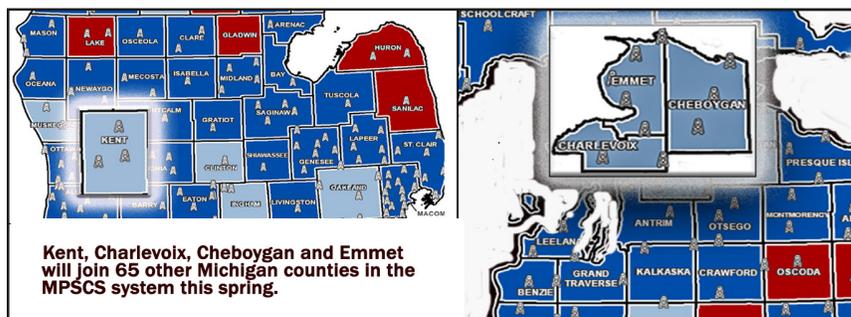
PUBLIC safety agencies in four more counties will soon benefit from interoperable voice and data communications provided by MPSCS. Integrations are nearly complete for Kent County Dispatch Authority and CCE Central Dispatch Authority (Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet counties). This means 69 of Michigan's 83 counties will have joined MPSCS by this spring. Five other counties are in various stages of integration – Oakland, Muskegon, Ingham, Clinton and Missaukee.

Infrastructure improvements are mostly completed in the Kent and CCE integrations, and distribution of portable radios is ongoing (many still need to be programmed). However, the counties will need several more months to complete vehicle radio installations and integration of fire pagers.

Kent County has completed construction on its \$25 million countywide digital radio system that replaces an aging analog system. The county will have 22 channels and 12 tower sites including those inside Grand Rapids, and two 9-1-1 dispatch centers (City of Grand Rapids and Kent County Sheriff's Department). All told, 40 police and fire departments with about 5,000 radios and 900 fire pagers will join the system.

New radio towers are located in Grand Rapids and the townships of Bowne, Casnovia, Gaines, Spencer and Vergennes. Antennas and equipment were added to other sites including existing MPSCS towers.

"This system will significantly improve radio coverage and the clarity of the communications," said Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young. "This is a major



step forward as we work to continuously improve our public safety services. It also will enhance the safety of all first responders."

At the tip of the Lower Peninsula, the CCE Central Dispatch Authority is integrating two existing towers into MPSCS, and has completed construction of a 190-foot monopole and shelter in Charlevoix Township. Testing of the tower is now underway.

A tower near Topinabee in Cheboygan County and owned by CCE went live on March 19.

Central Michigan University owns the third tower, on Beaver Island (Charlevoix County). The tower is being fitted with the necessary equipment for MPSCS integration, and is expected to go live in mid-April.

While private sector contractors perform equipment installations on newly integrated towers, MPSCS steeplejacks invariably check the work. "We're doing it not just to protect the State of Michigan's interests (including security and reliability), but also to protect the local customers; to make sure they will get what they're paying for," said Bob Olson, supervisor of the MPSCS Northern Regional Service Center in Gaylord. ■

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MPSCS Update is produced by MPSCS Communications & Outreach. For questions, corrections, or story ideas contact Tom Black, Communications Representative, at BlackT8@michigan.gov.

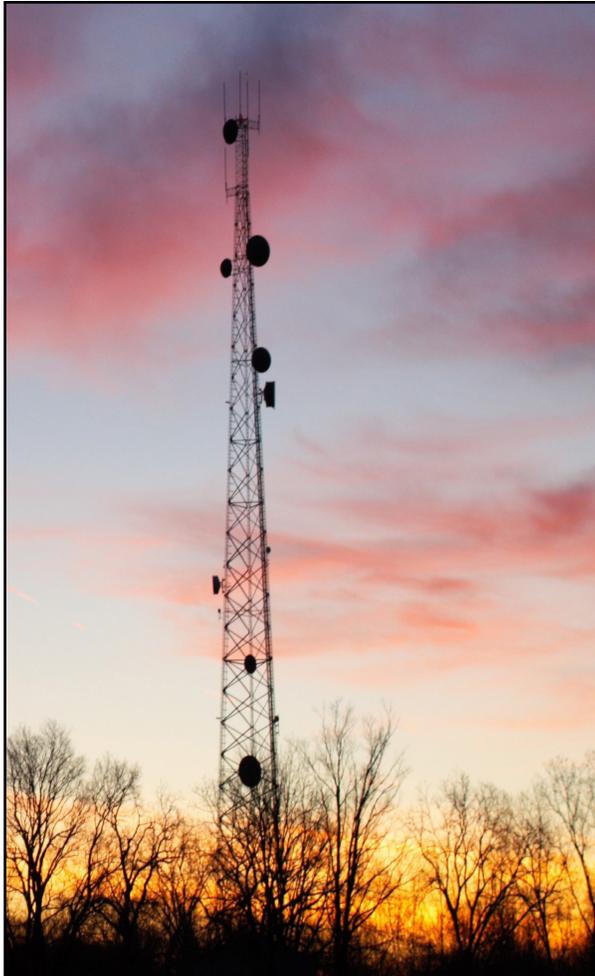


The 2021 Interoperability Conference has been canceled due to continued pandemic restrictions. MPSCS will provide our public safety partners with details on the 2022 conference as soon as they become available.



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DAYBREAK AT THE TOWER — An MPSCS tower is silhouetted against a scenic sunrise. Radio Technician Todd Velderman captured the moment on a recent cool morning.

ABOUT THE MPSCS SYSTEM

MPSCS's cutting edge network provides interoperable statewide coverage for over 119,000 radios used by Michigan's first responder community. MPSCS serves 2,085 agencies at all levels: State, local, federal, tribal & private public safety agencies all rely on MPSCS for critical public safety voice and data communication services. We provide world class infrastructure, expertise and 24/7/365 support to public safety agencies within Michigan.

Reminder: Include Complete Info When Submitting Work Orders

MPSCS reminds local and federal agencies to always provide complete information when submitting work orders. This includes providing a codeplug or "factory read" from each model of radio submitted for programming.

Including these items with all new requests will expedite work completion and reduce backlogs, according to RPU/TDU Manager Chris Kuhl.

In recent years, the complexity in radio layout variations, plus increased options and frequent software changes have made programming more difficult. When MPSCS Radio Technicians receive complete information at the outset, they will probably not need to contact customers to resolve conflicts or seek further information.

This notice does not apply to state-owned radios. ■

System Snapshot

(Current as of March 17, 2021)



119,017

RADIOS



291

TOWER SITES



91

9-1-1 DISPATCH CENTERS

Supporting 519 console positions



10.7 million

PUSH-TO-TALKS PER MONTH



7,108

FIRE PAGERS LIVE



2,085

AGENCIES SERVED

Includes State, Local, Federal, Tribal & Private Public Safety Agencies