

Volume 2, Issue 2  
Feb. 18, 2014

## Highlights

- Radio project: Single system and VHF update
- Recruiting update
- Training grant to benefit many

## Upcoming Meetings

**Policy Board**  
Feb. 26  
9 a.m.

Lakewood City Hall  
6000 Main St SW  
Lakewood WA 98499

**Operations Board**  
March 14  
9:30 a.m.  
WPFR Station 20  
10928 Pacific Hwy SW  
Lakewood WA 98499

*Meeting agendas  
and meeting minutes  
are available at  
[SouthSound911.org](http://SouthSound911.org)*

## Radio project: Single system and VHF update

The System Integration Group (SIG) is a South Sound 911 committee assigned the task of coordinating the communication efforts between two of the primary radio projects for the past two years. These projects included the Tacoma/Puyallup radio systems and the Pierce County/Pierce Transit radio system.

Until recently, the plan was to interconnect these systems through a common interface, allowing for interoperability and roaming between the two systems. The committee discussed moving the two separate radio systems into a single system design with built-in redundancy and now this goal is well underway to becoming reality thanks to the work, discussion and efforts of all parties involved.

### What does this mean to dispatch and operations?

By designing the system as a single platform, it simplifies roaming as well as dispatch operations with a single console for all communications.

**Recruiting Update:** South Sound 911 has several individuals going through the background process: three candidates for Records Specialist positions, four individuals for Dispatcher positions, and one Crime Analyst candidate.

The next dispatcher class is postponed until March 31st due to trainer availability.

For additional information about South Sound 911 hiring and recruiting, please contact Human Resources Manager Cynthia Shaffer, PHR.



Mobile radio installs continue at the Pierce County and Tacoma radio shops (above left and right, respectively), while portable radios are distributed to happy customers like TPD Officer Lopez.

This simplifies template design, prevents the loss of some features between the radio system and dispatch console, and helps remove some of the complications that would normally be experienced by roaming field units.

Some concerns have been raised because these changes complicate the process,

lengthen the timeline and increase the cost of getting radios to dispatchers and field units. The SIG and system owners are working through these issues with an eye on the timeline and a commitment to mitigate any impacts brought about by these changes. Both the Operations Board and the Policy Board are aware of these

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Classification	Filled Positions	Budgeted Positions	# to Fill
Communication Support Officer (CSO)	10	9	-1
Communication Officer (CO)	35 (2 new)	34	-1
Dispatcher	32 (1 temp, 2 new)	37	5
Records Specialist	26	29	3
Information Technology Specialist	6	7	1
Crime Analyst	1	2	1
Warrant Specialist	3	4	1

## Policy Board

Joyce McDonald  
Pierce County Councilmember

Joe Lonergan  
City of Tacoma Councilmember

Mike Brandstetter  
City of Lakewood Councilmember

Grant Erb  
West Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Commissioner

Glenn Hull  
City of Fife Mayor

Ron Lucas  
Town of Steilacoom Mayor

Pat McCarthy  
Pierce County Executive

Paul Pastor  
Pierce County Sheriff

Marilyn Strickland  
City of Tacoma Mayor

## Operations Board

Rob Masko  
Pierce County Sheriff's  
Department Chief

Faith Mueller  
Tacoma Fire Department  
Deputy Chief

Rod Baker  
Pierce Transit  
Chief of Transit Police

Ryan Baskett  
Graham Fire & Rescue  
Fire Chief

Brad Blackburn  
Fife Police Department  
Police Chief

Peter Cribbin  
Tacoma Police Department  
Assistant Chief

Cliff McCollum  
Browns Point-Dash Point Fire  
Fire Chief

Steve Nixon  
Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One  
Assistant Chief

Jim Sharp  
West Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Fire Chief

Jerry Thorson  
East Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Fire Chief

Keith Wright  
Central Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Fire Chief

Mike Zaro  
Lakewood Police Department  
Assistant Chief

## Executive Director

Andrew E. Neiditz  
South Sound 911

*Radio project continued...*

concerns and by formal action the Operations Board has strongly supported the change.

The VHF overlay system is the other active radio project. The concept for this is to provide necessary VHF communications to support mutual aid operations, rural coverage and fire personnel/station alerting functions. The design requires two systems:

- **A SR410 Corridor Sub System:** This system will cover the area from Buckley to Crystal Mountain along state Route 410. The system will utilize three



transmitter sites and two channels — one each for law enforcement and fire/EMS. Part of the system includes a partnership with a Washington State Patrol radio site and as part of that, a third channel will be added for WSP coverage.

- **The Main County Area:** This second system will cover the remainder of

Pierce County from the Cascade foothills westward. It will be made up of four channels utilizing a mix of 14 transmitter sites to provide radio coverage for mutual aid, rural areas and fire alerting.

For more information about the radio project contact Project Manager Michael Dobbs.

## Training grant to benefit many

South Sound 911 was awarded a grant from Homeland Security Region 5 and Pierce County DEM to jointly host a free Presentation & Basic Media Skills Seminar on April 14th.

Originally sought to develop the skills of South Sound 911's new 10-member Community Relations Team, the seminar is now open to other public safety agencies in the region (and their partners) thanks to the grant.

The seminar, led by Candace K. BelAir, is suitable for public information officers, educators, and executive and command staff. Additionally, it will be especially beneficial for subject matter experts who may not normally be engaged in educational or media messaging, but may be called upon to perform in that capacity during an incident or emergency.

For more information about the seminar, please contact Kris McNamar or for information or assistance with registration, please contact Pierce County DEM Training.

## PRESENTATION & BASIC MEDIA SKILLS

Presentations and media appearances are critical to how you and your organization are perceived. It's not just what you say, it's how you say it — and your organization's reputation may be on the line.

Learn how to organize a presentation and deliver it with confidence, credibility and IMPACT. This seminar will provide techniques and skills to grab your audience's attention and keep them engaged.

**Monday, April 14, 2014**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Tacoma Mall Plaza Building**  
2nd Fl Conf Rm - 2702 S. 42nd St., Tacoma

**NEW  
LOCATION**

**The seminar is FREE, but space is limited!**  
**Register online by April 9th!**

[http://piercecouny.surveymshare.com/t/  
Basic-Media-Skills](http://piercecouny.surveymshare.com/t/Basic-Media-Skills)

*If ADA accommodations are needed, please make note on your registration no later than April 2, 2014.*