

**Subject:** When?

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***"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is  
for good men to do nothing."***

*- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)*

Dear Commissioners:

When are you going to give back what was taken from us in 2014? Surely, some of you must care that you have made our job more hazardous.

***We are not asking for something we've never had!*** It really is a simple issue. Your hirelings destroyed part of our operational security. Our firefighters need to have it returned... or replaced with something better (like a properly designed and competently implemented digital system).

**The long list of lost communications capabilities now includes the NSFD analog repeater system which has recently been converted to a digital system.** Our primary communications with Central Dispatch is now entirely via the NSFD repeater system.

**Why was it necessary to switch operations from the County's "fire west" system to a system owned by our two townships?** It was necessary because Pro Comm Inc has failed to maintain the "fire west" system at an acceptable level and, I suspect, Chief Livermore was desperately searching for a way to improve on-scene security for our firefighters.

**The NSFD system, on a scrawny 45.7m tower (1) that was installed by NSFD personnel 25 years ago, performs better than the "fire west" system maintained by Pro Comm Inc. What's wrong with that picture?**

**Granted**, via the NSFD repeater, our firefighters now have better communications with Central Dispatch, **but .....**

-- **Now**, our firefighters have no way to communicate directly with firefighters in Mecosta County and Clare County until they are within a couple of miles of a scene;

-- **Now**, the NSFD no longer has the capability to enable communications with NSFD firefighters through their analog pagers via the NSFD repeater;

-- **Now**, dispatchers now have a separate frequency and radio (another distraction) which they have to monitor, **constantly**. (*To their credit, our County dispatchers have been amazingly tolerant and cooperative during this entire, burdensome fiasco.*)

In summary, the loss of the analog capability of the NSFD repeater makes communications regarding **safe approach routes**, **needed resources** and **scene safety** very difficult.

**Those of you with a conscience know that what you've allowed to happen is morally wrong.** I'm asking you to show some moral fiber by ordering Pro Comm Inc (or a more competent company) to fix the problems created by this fiasco.

**Please, please ...do the right thing and give back what you took from us before one of us gets hurt or killed** due to the inferior communications system you forced on us. I pray every day that you will act soon enough.

Thanks for taking the time to read my plea,

Frank Benn  
Firefighter/EMT

**READ ABOUT HOW ISABELLA COUNTY OFFICIALS  
HAVE ENDANGERED N.W. ISABELLA COUNTY**

**FIREFIGHTERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE**

[http://www.bennsci.com/Digital\\_Radio\\_Fiasco/digital\\_fiasco.html](http://www.bennsci.com/Digital_Radio_Fiasco/digital_fiasco.html)

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- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.

- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

**A MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR CRIMINALS:**

Law abiding citizens are almost always unarmed.

**THE SAFEST PLACE TO COMMIT A CRIME:**

A "no gun zone".

"The right of self-defence never ceases. It is among  
the most sacred, and alike necessary to nations and  
to individuals..."

-James Monroe,

President of the United States, 1818.

Smith & Wesson: One of the best life assurance  
companies in the world.

<http://www.bennsci.com>

-- The Isabella County Digital Radio Fiasco

-- Yellowstone National Park pictures

& more.

(1) <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/licenseLocDetail.jsp?pageNumToReturn=1&keyLoc=13913081&licKey=1190729>