
It is vital to the public safety of Saskatchewan residents that all emergency response agencies utilize one radio system for more efficient communication within their own organization and when involved in multi-agency situations. This system should be available to all municipalities at an affordable cost and be a reliable and long term solution to a provincial public safety radio system. If the cost is too expensive for municipalities, the Province of Saskatchewan should offer financial assistance to ensure that all municipalities participate.

Since the 1990's municipalities around Saskatchewan have been using SaskTel's FleetNet 800 system as their communication system for their emergency response agencies. FleetNet was marketed as having the capability to operate on separate channels and when needed could join together when multiple agencies were involved in an incident.

In 2004, SaskTel notified all FleetNet users that they would be ending the FleetNet service in 2006 as the system was becoming outdated. After several discussions with the provincial government, SaskTel agreed to continue to operate the system, but would not be providing any updates, up to the time the province was able to find a suitable replacement for the FleetNet system.

Municipalities have recently been notified by the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing that they will be working with the RCMP and SaskPower to become part of their provincial radio system as a solution to the phasing out of FleetNet. CPSP is working to have all emergency response agencies on this network. Unfortunately, this system is quite expensive with an average cost of \$4000.00 per radio and a monthly operating fee of \$89.00 per radio.

Municipalities have begun to express concerns with the cost of the system and many have stated that if there is no financial assistance, they will not participate and the system will fail.

Notes:

A resolution was adopted in 2009 urging the Government of Saskatchewan to provide financial assistance for the radio program.