

FIELD OBSERVATIONS



By *Ralph K. Dain Jr.,
GCSAA Field Staff
Regional Representative Florida*

Breaker! Breaker! Do You Read Me?

bands must cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology, and begin operating using at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology. For those readers who just thought, “So, what does this mean to me?” It could impact the utilization of the hand held radios currently used for communication and control of your irrigation system.

I am aware of facilities across the country that have paid only small licensing fees because they have newer technology already in operation and others that have paid between \$20,000 to \$28,000 to convert older hand-held radios and irrigation control systems. Regardless of the current status of your system you *will* be required to make this transition by January 1, 2013.

I am including some bullet points from an FCC PowerPoint that detail information pertaining to this process:

- Narrow banding ensures more efficient use of the spectrum and greater spectrum access for public safety and non-public safety users

- Will relieve congestion in and result in increased channel availability for public safety VHF/UHF systems
 - Narrow banding has been consistently supported by the public safety community, including APCO, NPSTC, and other organizations
 - After January 1, 2013, FCC interference rules will not protect non-compliant wideband systems from harmful interference
 - Systems that fail to narrowband by the deadline could create interference or inter-operability problems for systems that have narrow banded
 - Wideband equipment will not be available after January 1, 2013
- GCSAA is currently working on a communication piece to provide more details on this issue. I am always available if you need more information. It is critical that you have this information so you are able to discuss this with the managers and owners of your facility and you are not caught off your guard on this matter.

I recently came across an interesting countdown clock on the Internet that caught my attention.

“There are 297 Days, 8 Hours, and 41 minutes left!” This does not reference the end of the Mayan Calendar on December 21, 2012. But if that does mean the end of the world, then I guess this countdown really does not matter!

This countdown is to January 1, 2013, when all public safety and business-industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio

**The link for information regarding FCC Narrow banding is:
<http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>**

For more information you may call me at 785-424-4306 or email to rdain@gcsaa.org.



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