

January 2014

Allcomm Communicator

Happy New Year



Does your business plan for 2014 include: Increasing efficiency, addressing safety concerns, and/or reducing costs? If so, let Motorola two-way radios help your company out.

Versatile and powerful, Motorola two-way radios can help respond to challenges in today's construction industry. With two-ways, Crews can communicate instantly with emergency features which makes safety effortless and downtime is minimized which leads to lower costs.

Allcomm offers portable radios that address a variety of communication needs. Our flexible radios offer a range of solutions that help meet your unique needs and help you cut through communication obstacles on the job. We guarantee that we have exactly what you need for 2014 to run smoothly.



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One Year After Newton: Connecting Teachers and First Responders to Protect Students - Laura Walsh

The anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy touches on what is still a raw memory – living only 20 minutes from Newtown, Connecticut, the surrounding neighborhoods have stayed involved with the healing process to help this local community. The truth is that 12/14 is a painful anniversary – one that changed a peaceful, bucolic, quintessentially Connecticut town. Many of those living in Newtown recall that peaceful existence, and hope to move beyond 12/14 without the stigma of that fateful day that changed the lives, the history, and the landscape of this beautiful town forever.

While the investigation has been completed and the school has been razed, as parents we pray an active shooter never enters an elementary school again. Even still, as a Motorola Solutions employee, the anniversary of Sandy Hook reminds me what we can and must do to help law enforcement be ready.

To this end, I was proud to recently participate at [Urban Shield 2013](#), a training exercise involving local, national, and international first responder agencies. This 48-hour exercise is a competition with more than 30 global tactical and medical teams, helping them prepare for and provide a unified response to disasters and major emergencies. The event took place all over the San Francisco Bay area in 36 tactical events.

A team of technology experts from Motorola Solutions participated in a mock training environment at the Palomares Elementary School, using our radios and small communication devices for the “teachers,” who were actually actors simulating an active shooter environment. Our goal was to help demonstrate that effective communication between teachers and first responders is critical in emergency situations.

Working closely with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office at Urban Shield, it was evident that effective communication makes a difference when saving lives.

Training for an active school shooter scenario at the Palomares Elementary School playground

Here is the school scenario:

Tactical teams are briefed before entering the campus. They are told by a “janitor” that he has seen three past students enter the school campus with weapons. The janitor has told the teams that the school has been locked down and he has a radio for school communications and the keys to the school. The critical part here is that tactical teams are being tested: at any shooter event, first responders should first ask for the keys and for the radio before entering the scene. However, not all teams took the keys. Nor the radio.

Those teams that took the radio as they entered the site were able to get the information from trapped teachers that were wearing the [Motorola EWB100 Enterprise Wireless Communicators](#) (lightweight devices enabling voice communications over the wireless). These small radios are the perfect size for teachers to wear for daily communications or in this case to act as a lifeline to first responders – allowing direct communication into the same radios that police already use. The hostage activity was heard directly through the first responder’s radio. SWAT units could quickly evaluate where shooters were and actively disarm them. Teams who didn’t have radio communication were unsure where to go first, wasting precious minutes.

May there never ever be another Sandy Hook. However, if the situation arises where first responders need to address an active shooter, we want them to be ready. After taking part in Urban Shield, the hope is all tactical teams will use radio communications effectively – allowing connected teachers and tactical teams to enable the fastest response possible to keep students safe.

Laura Walsh is a contributing blogger from the Motorola Solutions Sales Center of Excellence.



ALLCOMM NEWS

Last month, select employees from Allcomm’s Tower Division received an opportunity to learn about the installation of hybrid fiber optic cabling in preparation for upcoming system upgrades for Verizon Wireless. The seminar, hosted by Verizon, covered several topics including:

System Layout • Heliac Fiber Cables • Remote Radio Units (RRU) • Over Voltage Protection (OVP Handling • Cleaning • Installation Guidelines • Testing • Experience

CommScope presented a plethora of information specific to their products and how they fit into Verizon’s upcoming system upgrades in 2014. This information will be critical for Allcomm’s anticipated participation in these upgrades. Attendees learned specifics about hybrid cable configurations and applications: system architecture, radio considerations, component functions, handling, cleaning, installation guidelines, and actual field experiences.

This informative training will help Allcomm’s tower employees as they assist Verizon Wireless throughout the upcoming year as the upgrades are rolled throughout Alabama.

