



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: John Naulty, Interim Chief of Police
Date / Time: September 3, 2020
Information: Generator replacement

CIRCUMSTANCES:

We would like to inform the public of recent upgrades to the Police Department's radio infrastructure. For years now, the radio system has had issues with power failures and the ability of Officers to communicate to Ukiah Dispatch. Radio communication from a patrol car is sent to an antenna repeater on top of Bald Hill, which transmits the communication to Ukiah Dispatch. When a power outage occurs, the repeater antenna does have battery backup, but this only lasts for a short period of time. With the loss of communication to Ukiah, we must rely on cell phones and a radio system from the police station. With winter weather and now the Power Safety shutoffs, we have lost power for days.

At the Bald Hill repeater site was an old generator, which no longer functioned. Public Works staff set out and secured funds to replace the generator. This week Public Works staff completed the install and we now have a new generator with a substantial cost savings.

I would like to commend both departments, Public Works staff, crew and Police Department personnel with replacement of the generator. This has been a problem that has existed for several years but has come to light with the long-term PSPS outages.

The city has also secured funds and has purchased all new police portable radios. The existing portable radios are no longer being manufactured so it is difficult to find replacement parts. The new police radios are currently being built at the Motorola factory and should be shipped to us in early October 2020.



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