



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 5, 2012

Media contact: Molly O'Reilly
Phone: 614.644.0194
Email: Molly.O'Reilly@das.state.oh.us

MARCS upgrade to be discussed Sept. 18

The Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, 740 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 43211.

Agenda items include an update on the current statewide system upgrade to Project 25 standards. Other topics include the lessons learned from the severe storm that swept through Ohio on June 29 as well as the fiscal year 2013 operating budget.

Project 25 standards are standards for digital radio communication for use by federal, state and local public safety agencies in North America to enable them to communicate with other agencies and mutual-aid response teams during emergencies.

Currently, the MARCS system is at capacity with roughly 48,000 radios on the system and is reaching the end of its reliable life. The upgrade will expand capacity to more than 100,000 radios. In addition, a U.S. Federal Communications Commission requirement taking effect Jan. 1 will require many local government entities to upgrade their radio systems. The goal of the State of Ohio is to encourage local government entities to become customers of the upgraded MARCS system. The upgrade will provide customers with a long-term solution while allowing the state as a whole to leverage assets and deliver one comprehensive radio system.

MARCS is the State of Ohio's comprehensive wireless communication system for police, fire, emergency medical services and other public safety forces. MARCS provides wireless voice and mobile data for state agencies, including the Ohio departments of Natural Resources, Public Safety, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Transportation. MARCS also provides wireless radio service for about 700 county, township, federal and private first-responders.

MARCS is administered by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.