

Narrowbanding Voice Over

Narrowbanding is and FCC required effort to get more communications paths within the existing radio spectrum. This will make the radio spectrum and system more efficient within the existing allocations. Narrowbanding affects all public safety, municipalities, transportation entities, school entities, hospitals, contractors, utility companies, marine terminals, airports, County and State government entities, and others.

The radio spectrum is electronic real estate – the complete range of frequencies and channels that can be used for radio communications. Spectrum is the highway over which voice, data, and image communications travel. Traditionally, systems have been employed that operate on channel bandwidths of 25kHz. “Narrowbanding” refers to a requirement by the FCC that by January 1st, 2013, all existing licensees implement equipment designed to operate on channel bandwidths of 12.5kHz or less. What this means is that licensees will need to convert their existing wideband 25kHz system, to narrowband 12.5kHz operation. Any equipment not capable of operating on channels 12.5kHz or less will need to be replaced.

Cellular Phones are an unreliable form of emergency communication. There are areas in the state of Maine that have limited to no cellular coverage. This map of Maine shows the cell phone coverage areas as of (DATE). The (COLOR) shows the areas that have cell phone coverage and the (COLOR) show where the dead areas exist. The areas with no cell phone coverage are still used for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and camping and it is essential that we have the ability to communicate effectively.

Think of it as a 6-lane highway, which cannot be expanded. In an effort to make it more efficient, we better leveraged three of the six lanes, which will provide growth opportunities in the future.

From a protocol standpoint CONOPS channels will still work like they do today. However the narrowband channels will need to be programmed into your narrowband radio.

Again, on average a new mobile radio cost about one thousand dollars and a new portable radio cost on average, seven hundred and fifty dollars.

For more information on the FCC Narrowband Mandate visit the following websites.

On side B of this disk is the DVD-ROM Narrowband toolkit, which includes an inventory spreadsheet template, a list of reference links for more information, informational brochures, and other documents.