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HOWARD COUNTY UPDATE: Media Statement
February 14, 2018

In the early morning hours on February 5th, Howard County first responders experienced a disruption in their countywide radio communication system. EF Johnson Technologies, Inc., the system manufacturer, and the local service provider, J&K Communications, responded immediately to the incident. The cause of the system disruption was not immediately evident, so the radio system was reconfigured to ensure that the disruption experienced could not reoccur and that the countywide radio system was safe for first responder communications.

Over the last week, systematic testing was conducted on the radio system to isolate the root cause. During this time, Commissioner Wyman has led daily calls with EFJohnson and J&K Communications, to brief the County public safety leaders on all activities and findings and to address any questions or concerns.

Monday, February 12th it was determined that one channel on the microwave link between the Greentown site and the Kokomo site was receiving intermittent RF interference, which was the cause of the radio system disruption. That particular microwave channel was turned off, and the radio system has since been running error free.

Because of its flexible design, the countywide radio system can remain in operation for the first responders while technicians identify the cause of the RF interference and complete the optimization of the microwave link to enhance the system reliability further.

John Suzuki
President & CEO
EF Johnson Technologies, Inc.