



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

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New communications project to modernise VICSES

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is now one of the first emergency service organisations in the state to undergo a complete revamp of its radio communications arsenal, with the role out of the Operational Communications Enhancement Project (OCEP).

OCEP will replace the primary communication system currently used by VICSES to coordinate operations and provide emergency assistance to a much larger and more advanced network called the Victorian Radio Network (VRN).

The upgrade will enable VICSES to replace the aging portable, mobile and fixed-station radio equipment and make the move from an analogue network to a digital one.

This will allow VICSES to enhance communications within the organisation, permit greater clarity in voice transmissions and improve radio coverage across Victoria.

The new digital radios will also have the ability to provide better access to location services, or GPS tracking. This will prove vital in instances where VICSES volunteers require urgent assistance.

The project includes the installation of 2,400 new fixed (in buildings), mobile (in vehicles) and portable (hand-held) radios at VICSES units across the state. The VRN will provide a single network that, in time, all emergency services will use.

Specifically, OCEP will replace the existing analogue equipment with new digital equipment operating at a different radio frequency. The new system upgrade is required in order to comply with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) mandates and State Government initiatives.

Although this project will replace most radios within VICSES, High Frequency, or HF radios will remain unchanged.

The complete rollout is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Quotes attributable to Simon White, VICSES Program Manager – OCEP

“This project will allow VICSES to not only finally retire the old analogue radios, but also improve communications within the organisation and our emergency service partners”.

“In the work we do, it is vital that we keep up to date with technology. This upgrade is important because it means there will be greater clarity in voice transmissions, regardless of a strong or weak signal”.

Quotes attributable to Mick D’Elia, VICSES Team Leader – OCEP

“Having been a volunteer for so many years, it’s fantastic to be leading the OCEP project team and watching VICSES grow into the highly functional and technologically advanced organisation”.

“The upgrade is great for our volunteers as it provides better access to location services and GPS tracking, which is so important when a VICSES crew needs urgent assistance”.

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