

BULLETIN - LONDON COMMUNICATIONS

The following is relayed from London Ambulance Service Paramedic Ian Wilmer through the trauma list serv. (Items that are not related to communications issues were snipped.)

"Communication is very difficult and crucial.

Local mobile (cell) phone providers completely shut down/were shut down after the bus explosion (voice and SMS text), presumably due to concerns that terrorists may use them to remote detonate secondary devices left to kill emergency responders to the initial incidents; or due to overwhelming demand (everyone ringing everyone else to check they were OK); or because routine use near unexploded devices with electric detonators may cause them to activate.

The land line telephones appeared to become jammed (presumably due to demand) and were therefore also of limited use.

The emergency radio system quickly becomes saturated, especially with multiple incident sites.

Incidents on the underground railway system compound these problems; although British transport police digital radios do work well there, and the fire brigade have some capability to provide communication for their staff underground."

(snip)

"For your information all emergency services in the UK are switching to a digital radio system over the coming few years, which as well as being more flexible have a significantly larger capacity."

Commentary -

Note the affect to public wireless networks.

Landline telephone communications were overloaded. For all of us in the STL region - are you GETS participants?

While not directly stated, the commentor alluded to the importance of multiple voicepaths within communications systems. How would multiple high impact incidents in the St. Louis Region be handled? What if these incidents occurred within radio range of each other and required communications in support of incident management structure?

From Starrscomm List Serv
on behalf of Steve Makky, Sr.
Co-Chair Interoperable Communications