

BULLETIN

NO: 25-81
DATE: May 22, 2025
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Roger M. Fisher, Deputy Fire Chief, Emergency Command & Data Center
SUBJECT: Encryption-Based Changes to 700 MHz Radio System

On **June 2, 2025** San Diego PD will be encrypting all radio traffic.

Radio Encryption Basics

Radio encryption enhances the security of communication over radio frequencies through encoding voice and data signals, preventing unauthorized access, and ensuring the confidentiality of the information being communicated. It transforms readable messages into a coded format that can only be decoded by authorized users with the appropriate decryption key.

Importance of Radio Encryption

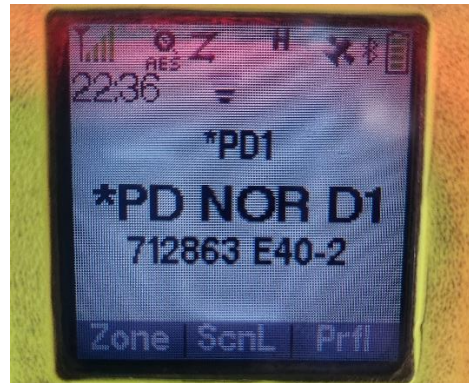
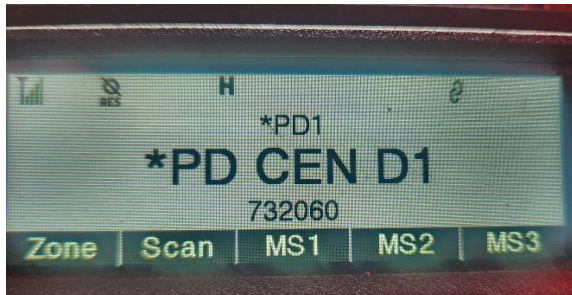
- Protects sensitive information from eavesdroppers and unauthorized entities.
- Satisfies regulatory requirements.
- Assures that communication has not been altered during transmission and verifies the identity of the communicating parties.
- Enhances the security of mission-critical operations, especially in law enforcement-related activities.

The Department relies on having access to certain SDPD channels to maintain its situational awareness. These channels also give us a direct form of communication when time is a factor.

SDPD has been using radio encryption for special channels assigned to SWAT, Narcotics Task Force, Canine Unit & Gang Unit for several decades. Starting June 2nd, all routine traffic on the various D1 & D2 channels will also become encrypted.

Fleet Map Layout Pertaining to Encrypted Channels

In 2024, during the annual radio reprogramming, duplicate SDPD zones were created. They are zones *PD1 and *PD2. The channels in these duplicate zones are preceded by an asterisk *. These are the encrypted versions of the channels in PD1 and PD2 that will need to be utilized after June 2nd. Encrypted SDPD channels can also be found in *LG1, *LG2, and *FDEVT1. In addition to these channels, your radio also needs to have the encryption key loaded into it. The presence of the encryption key is identified by an “AES” flag in the top left corner of the screen. You will only see the “AES” when your radio is on an encrypted channel. See example pictures below of a portable and a mobile screen tuned to an encrypted channel in an asterisked zone.



Crews are directed to check all portable and mobile radios assigned to your specific unit or command and ensure they have both *PD1 and *PD2 zones (37 & 38). In addition, ensure the radio displays the AES symbol in the top left corner while in that zone. If you have a radio that hasn't received this update, please use your chain of command to obtain the necessary radio updates at City Wireless (Radio Shop).