

ICIS Network Contributes to Success in Pasadena

The ICIS radio network was successfully used by public safety agencies to communicate with each other as they ensured the security and safety of participants and attendees at the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl Game.

During every portion of the parade—from pre-parade float transportation to coordination during the event—ICIS network talkgroups were used to manage event activities. Among those groups was the Pasadena Department of Transportation which coordinated traffic-related activities over the network.

Pasadena Fire and assisting agencies used Verdugo Fire talkgroups to communicate between themselves, the Command Post, and the Verdugo Fire Communications Center to manage parade and post-parade activities. Extra talkgroups were used to simplify the operation and essentially provided each group with a single tactical channel without disturbing other system users. Additionally, these talkgroups allowed Verdugo Fire's normal operations to continue uninterrupted.

Prior to the Rose Bowl Game, the City of Glendale provided radios that were programmed, encrypted, and then distributed by the City of Pasadena to the Threat Assessment Response Team. Because these secure radios were used on a separate talkgroup, units from local, state, and federal agencies were able to communicate with each other—without the fear of eavesdropping by unauthorized individuals—as they protected event attendees from specific dangers.

During the Rose Bowl Game, Pasadena Fire coordinated resources over ICIS for long-range communications and continued to track these resources after they had left the event area. This internal coordination provided a clearer picture to the Incident Commander (IC) of resource availability, allowed the IC to make decisions with more accurate information, and provided better service to the event attendees.

“The use of the ICIS radio network allowed users across all disciplines to remain in constant contact on one single radio platform throughout a wide operational area,” stated Steven Page, the Communications Systems Manager for the events. “The overall result was confidence that messages were getting to the right people on the first time. There was no need for people to consider the medium through which they were going to communicate. Press the button, talk, and they are heard.”

The positive responses received from radio users during the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl Game testifies to the quality and reliability of the ICIS network.