

FEBRUARY 2025

THE REPEATER

YOUR GATEWAY TO IPSC NEWS AND INFORMATION

BI-DIRECTIONAL AMPLIFIERS IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) are critical, in-building signal boosters that enhance public safety by ensuring reliable, two-way radio communication for first responders (police, fire, EMS) inside structures. They eliminate dead zones in areas like stairwells, basements, and parking garages, preventing signal loss caused by concrete, metal, and, low-E glass.

Commonly part of an Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement System (ERCES) or Distributed Antenna System (DAS), these systems are crucial for modern building infrastructure.

Did you know:

- **Life Safety Enhancement:** By guaranteeing clear, uninterrupted communication between firefighters inside a building and incident command outside, BDAs improve coordination and safety during emergencies.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** NFPA 72 and International Fire Code (IFC) require that buildings maintain 90-99% signal coverage in critical areas, making BDAs essential for compliance and occupancy permits,
- **Eliminating Dead Zones:** BDAs amplify, and retransmit public safety radio signals (VHF/UHF/700/800 MHz) throughout large, complex, or underground structures, preventing communication failures during critical incidents.
- **Speeding Emergency Response:** Reliable in-building communication reduces delays in rescue operations and helps to prevent injuries or fatalities for both occupants and rescuers.

For more info: FCCLicensing@ipsc.in.gov

ADVANCED SYSTEM KEY PORTAL



- All system key requests must initiate via this portal effective February 1st, 2026.
- A signed MOU is required to hold a system key.
- System keys are valid for one year and must be renewed prior to expiration.
- Any additional systems appended to the key must be added by the associated agency.
- Please allow 1-2 business days for request processing.

Access the Portal:

<https://www.in.gov/ipsc/radios-and-programming/radio-programming-hardware-keys/ext>





PLANNING FOR WEATHER

Indiana's Severe Weather Preparedness Week is coming :

March 8-14

It's a great time to review your site trunking plans, create a severe weather communications plan (ICS 205) or a PACE plan.

RADIO FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS

Our new Radio Fundamental Skills class strips away all the techie jargon and provides first responders with practical information to help build proficiency with today's complex P25 radios.

Learn:

- Navigating Zones and Talkgroups
- Decoding system Feedback
- Troubleshooting Radio Issues
- How Trunked Systems Work

Our Training and Outreach coordinators can come to you or we're hosting several "open" classes. Join us **March 24th** or **March 26th** at MADE@Plainfield, (1610 Reeves Rd, Plainfield).

Register on our website for the March classes here:

[REGISTER](#)

ONGOING REMINDERS FOR THE SAFE-T SYSTEM

To ensure consistent progress, interoperability and a safe and productive environment for users please take note of the following:

- 800 MHz paging & encryption **MUST** be coordinated with IPSC to ensure safety, compatibility and security of users.
- IPSC will not issue radio IDs for ANY radio that is 'end of support' through its manufacturer.
- Radio purchasing should always be with a manufacturer authorized vendor to ensure P25 compliance and authenticity.
- Donor radio gateways (or any gateways) are currently not allowed to be used on the SAFE-T system with the exception of **TANGO TANGO**. If a vendor is attempting to sell a device requiring a donor radio please contact us.
- Use of SmartConnect and CriticalConnect needs to be coordinated with IPSC and your vendor, please reach out if you have questions.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are 43 radio models from 6 separate manufacturers approved for use on the SAFE-T radio system. This ensures that first responders are able to find radios that best fit their preferences, operations and budget.