

### What is E-Comm?

E-Comm is the regional emergency communications centre for southwest British Columbia. Our full name is Emergency Communications for Southwest British Columbia Incorporated.

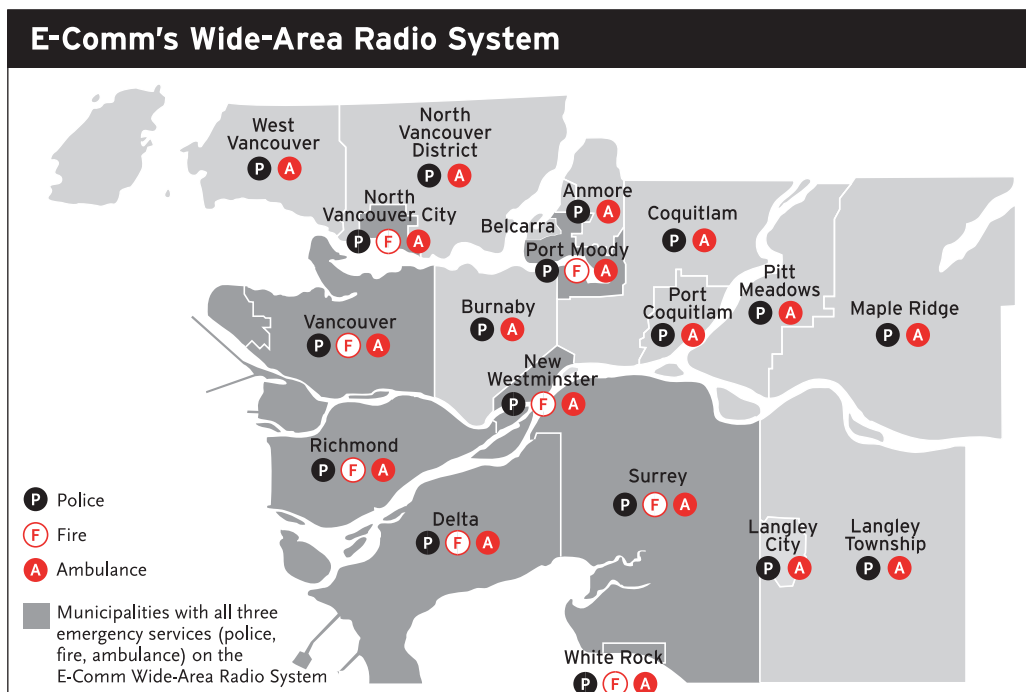
### What is the E-Comm Wide-Area Radio Network?

The E-Comm radio system is a shared communications network used throughout the Metro Vancouver by police, fire and ambulance personnel. The E-Comm radio system provides better coverage, greater clarity and improved reliability through an earthquake resistant infrastructure and enhanced security. The multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional communication capabilities have already played a critical role in the successful conclusion of several police pursuits, cross municipal-border crime investigations, and a police shooting.

### Why do we need a shared radio system?

An integrated emergency communications system is critical to public safety. Prior to E-Comm, emergency radio services were fragmented as ambulance, fire and police agencies could not communicate with one another effectively as they were all using separate radio systems. This did not allow them to communicate directly with emergency agencies both in and out of their own municipalities. Most emergency agencies were also using old radio systems, which were not designed to handle increasing call loads.

A shared radio system is completely necessary for responding to day-to-day emergencies and in the event of a major disaster.



## What are the benefits of the Wide-Area Radio System?

- Cross Communication between services—police, fire and ambulance personnel within the same community can communicate directly with each other in “real” time
- Cross Communication between agencies in different municipalities—emergency personnel can communicate directly with each other in “real” time
- Better “in-building” coverage
- Wider coverage area
- High-level of system reliability
- Earthquake resistant infrastructure
- Encrypted voice security

## How are agencies charged for radio services?

Member agencies are charged for their share of the radio system based on a weighted distribution cost allocation model that considers such factors as the coverage area (geography) and traffic of their region. Traffic factors are further broken down into the number of radios, radio traffic and population as these all impact system usage.

Shared radio infrastructure costs are allocated based on the following factors:

- Coverage area (50%)
- Radio traffic (20%)
- Number of radios (20%)
- Population (10%)

Radio user equipment is specific to an agency and is therefore a direct cost to each agency.

For more information visit [www.ecomm911.ca](http://www.ecomm911.ca)