

retain as revenue funds resulting from disposal of apparatus, etc., which were purchased using municipal contributions.

Dispatch and Radio Communications

The dispatch system was described earlier. The involvement of two PSAPs in nearly every incident is problematic and could, under certain circumstances, have dire consequences. It is possible that, during the hand-off of information between PSAPs, information will be lost or communicated incorrectly, resulting in delayed or inappropriate response. In addition, the separate radio systems maintained and utilized by various jurisdictions were acknowledged by many system participants to impede emergency operations.

In the event of a substantial incident (the discussion scenario involved a bus-truck accident on the New York State Thruway), it was agreed that it was not possible for each responder on the scene to communicate with other responders without using multiple radios and multiple dispatch center intermediaries. Law enforcement, fire, and EMS entities utilize different radio bands without common operating frequencies. If a state trooper at the east end of the incident needed to communicate with the incident commander at the center of the incident, he would have to call his dispatch center, which would in turn call the Oneida County dispatch center, which would relay the message to the IC, with the return message traveling a reverse pathway. This method of communication has been dangerous and has been documented to be so in numerous studies and reports since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

In addition, the lack of a common, full-service dispatching center makes the collection, aggregation, and analysis of operational data nearly impossible. Public accountability for emergency services demand that data about emergency performance, including response performance, be regularly collected, analyzed, and reported. Data collected in multiple systems, in multiple formats, and touched by multiple hands can not meet the necessary standards of accuracy and trustworthiness to fulfill these important functions.

Response Zones & Apparatus Dispatching

Within the Town, response zones exist that were drawn many years ago using a methodology that was not recorded and that can not be recalled. These zones have not been updated even though the transportation network in the villages and the Town have undergone numerous changes. As a result, the closest emergency response units are not always dispatched to calls for service.

Moreover, the fire company designated as “primary” for a particular area operates in isolation. Upon receipt of an alarm, the fire company will respond using its own apparatus