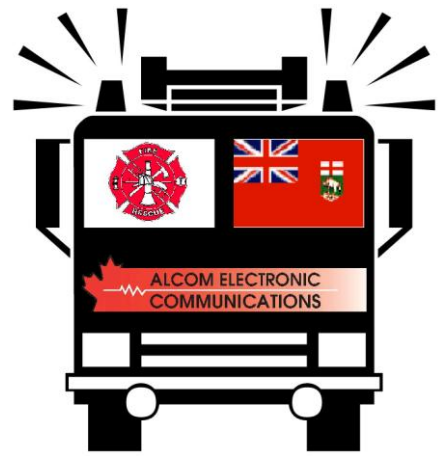


# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

January 2013



## Aging Paging Systems Are At Risk For Failure

**Your paging system is your primary means of dispatch. Can you depend on it?**

For the past thirty years most fire departments in Manitoba have depended on paging systems for instant transmission of dispatch information to their members.

The Fire Reporting Emergency Dispatch (F.R.E.D.) system was operated by MTS starting in the 1980's and served the province well for many years. When MTS pulled the plug on F.R.E.D. in 2007 many fire departments established new paging systems based at their fire halls while others continued to use the old equipment left behind by MTS. At that time the majority of the F.R.E.D. equipment was over twenty years old and equipment failures were not uncommon.

Most have since been replaced with new paging systems but there are still a handful in use. Today those old F.R.E.D. paging systems are approaching thirty years old and are at high risk to break down.



**Does your paging system look like this?**

The F.R.E.D. paging systems were manufactured by Calgary Controls Ltd. & used a Midland Radio for the transmitter. At some locations external power amplifiers & back-up batteries were added.

**Continued on Page 2...**

# PAGER SALE

All Pager Sale Offers are valid until February 28, 2013

## MOTOROLA MINITOR V

Stored Voice VHF Single Channel

Per Pager **\$469.<sup>00</sup>**

5 or more Pagers

**\$459.<sup>00</sup> each**

10 or more Pagers

**\$429.<sup>00</sup> each**



### Did you know?

Underwriters Laboratory has certified the MINITOR V as intrinsically safe for hazardous locations.

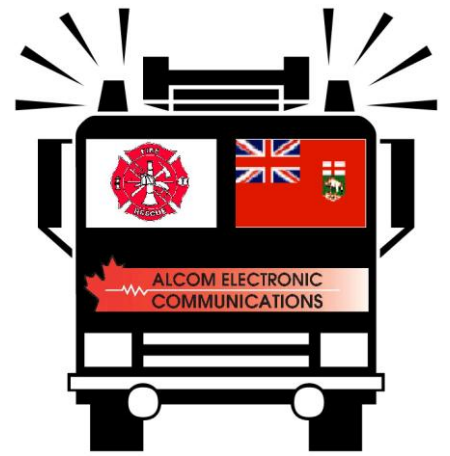
Division 1, Class I, Group C, D, Class II, Group E, F, G.



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# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

January 2013



## Meet Iovian Nagy, Alcom's Senior Service Technician

Imagine being immersed in the world of electronics your whole life starting early in elementary school. For Iovian Nagy that is reality. Iovian first built a small AM radio receiver when enrolled in his first electronics course at the Pioneer's House in Medias, Romania at the age of nine.

When Iovian joined the service team at Alcom Electronic Communications in 2001 he already had a lifetime of experience in radio communications and electronics. He had been working with another Motorola dealer for seven years since arriving in Canada as a self-sponsored immigrant in 1995. Previous to that Iovian was employed by the Communications Department of The National Natural Gas Company in Romania. Iovian had his first engagement with the world of Motorola when he worked on the gas company's Transylvania Basin Radio Communications Upgrade.

Since his first exposure to electronics in elementary school Iovian has continuously expanded his knowledge. His technical education and certifications include:

- Romanian National Railway Telecommunications High School
- Industrial Scholar Group (Romania), Professional Electronics, Automation & Computing Program
- Electronics Technician Program, ICS Canada
- Certified Associate Electronics Specialist, Electronics Technician Association (ETA) International
- Electronics Engineering Technician, Certified Technicians & Technologists Association of Manitoba

Iovian has completed dozens of Motorola training courses both on-line and in-person at Motorola Headquarters and continues to advance his knowledge and technical proficiency. He is currently completing the Computer Science Program through ETA International and continues to take Motorola training every time a new product or technology is introduced to the Alcom menu of offerings.



## Can You Depend On Your Aging Paging System?

Continued from Page 1...

One of the greatest frustrations with old paging systems like the Calgary Controls Ltd. F.R.E.D. systems is that they can no longer be serviced and repaired. Individual components are often no longer available and alternatives that are available cannot be easily adapted to the old equipment without extensive labour. Other components that may still be working are often in such a precarious state that any adjustments to them result in additional damage to the system. When a system like that breaks down you are left with no option but a wholesale replacement of all the equipment.

Individual components that become vulnerable to failure as the system ages include:

- Internal and external power amplifiers – power output and paging range can drop off significantly without warning.
- Back-up power battery systems commonly fail if they are not maintained regularly.
- Old paging encoder boards can fail without notice.
- Old transmitters experience frequency drift – this shows up as distorted paging audio & paging tones leading to missed pages.
- Component degradation in the transmitter or encoder results in tone & audio levels being too high or low – more missed pages.

If your department is one of the lucky ones to have gotten nearly thirty years out of your old paging system it is time to budget for replacement. Consider making an investment in a new paging system. Replace your old system or keep the new system on hand as a back-up for when your old system fails.

It only takes one paging failure to put lives and property at increased risk.



Alcom Electronic Communications configures paging systems using top of the line components:

- ICT Battery Charging Power Supply
- Motorola Professional Tier 45 Watt Transmitter
- Midian DPT-2 Paging Encoder

With the newest technology you can repair or replace individual components as needed rather than replacing the entire system.