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## Police Worried About Missing 911 Calls With New System

### ***Police Concerned About New Radio System, Silent 911 Calls***

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**INDIANAPOLIS** -- Marion County's new emergency radio system is drawing criticism from police groups concerned some messages might not get through.

At the county's 911 center, dispatchers are now having to rely on a light to tell them when someone's on the line, 6News' Jack Rinehart.

That's because a ring tone cannot pass through the new digital system, AT&T officials said. Instead, an alert on dispatchers' computer screens will let them know when there is an incoming call.

Some police officials said they're worried that could mean emergency calls may go unanswered.

"Surely we are not going to go with a system where the phone doesn't ring when you call 911," said Indianapolis Metro Police Detective Chief Joseph McAtee. "I mean, how can we live with a system like that?"

Last week, firefighters lost communications for nearly a minute while fighting a huge apartment fire in Speedway, Rinehart reported. Shortly after, an entire shift of control operators had trouble hearing 911 calls and radio traffic, Sheriff's Department officials said.

"This is a new system. We need to find all those post-implementation changes we need to make and we're learning those on a daily basis," said MECA Board President Joe Wright.

Indianapolis firefighters, the Marion County's fire chiefs, the police union and Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson have all expressed concerns about the new radio system.

The \$37 million system went online in late June.

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