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## Problems Persist With Fire Radios

### ***Firefighters Complain Of Noise Problems***

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**INDIANAPOLIS** -- More than a year after Marion County's \$37 million digital radio system went online, some are still divided about its effectiveness at chaotic fire scenes.

Since the system was adopted, firefighters have complained about excess ambient noise picked up by the radios, blaming the interference for miscommunications on the ground, 6News' Jack Rinehart reported.

"They're always asking to repeat traffic because we just can't hear, and I'm sitting in a vehicle that has no noise in it," said Lawrence fire Chief David Carlson.

The radios require firefighters to position their faces and mouths a certain way in order to effectively communicate.

Firefighters across the county have since been retrained on how to properly speak into the radio in an effort to improve communication.

"You just have to learn how the product works, and it was just a simple fact of training our people on the product," said Capt. Justin Sparks with the Wayne Township Fire Department.

Still, some firefighters said the new system is better than the one it replaced.

"That's what we get paid for. We have a responsibility to know how to use what we've given," said Lt. Richard Magbanua.

Fire safety advocates said problems with digital radios contributed to the deaths of three firefighters last year, including two in the Cincinnati area.

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