



Informational Bulletin

Harris Radio – XL200p (Portable Radios)

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Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

Recently a concern was brought to the sheriff.radio@fauquiercounty.gov email address in regards to the performance of the XL200p portable radios.

As crews arrived to a reported outside brush fire and arrived to the scene, they turned their assigned portable radios on and switched the channel selector dial to the appropriate operations channel. After switching to the chosen channel, personnel noted that the device did not display nor did it actually tune to the correct channel assignment.

The concern was investigated by the county radio manager, and through this process it was determined that the concern was validated for the following reason.

- It is typical for any electronic device such as our radios, to function through a “boot up” phase when powering on. With our current subscriber equipment, this phase can take approximately 15 seconds to complete.
- During this phase, the device is unable to interpret any function changes to the device to include channel selection. Because of this, it is imperative to note that when users are powering on devices for use, they should allow the device to complete the “boot up” phase prior to attempting to change the channel assignment.
- With the prior devices used in the system this was not seen as an issue of regular occurrence as the prior device had a shorter “boot up” phase. Additionally, there has been a concern noted with the volume knobs on the XL200p portable radios. It has been noted that several device volume knobs have failed to operate or become “stuck” during use.

This is a known problem that L3Harris Company is working on a resolution for. Until we have been provided with their resolution, it is recommended that all devices be checked each day to ensure proper operation. Personnel shall take the time to cycle each XL200p device assigned to a riding position on an in-service apparatus, through the start-up phase each morning at check out.

If personnel identify any concerns with radio devices or systems it is essential that they take the time to report those concerns to the sheriff.radio@fauquiercounty.gov email address and cc. any additional staff members that the concerns may pertain to.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Lieutenant Butch Flippo or Battalion Chief Dale Kidwell.