



South Davis Metro Fire Service Area

Proudly Serving the Communities of

Bountiful - Centerville - Davis County - North Salt Lake - West Bountiful - Woods Cross

November 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Starting in August 2024 in Southern Utah and then working through the State, the Utah Communication Authority will be upgrading the public safety communications network to the digital P25 standard. With this change, the frequency that is currently being used will change. Due to the change in frequencies, any Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) and Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) systems in place will need to be reprogrammed and/or replaced to work with the new system.

Under Title 15A, Chapter 5 of the Utah Code, the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) has been adopted, which is set as the referenced. Section 510 of the IFC sets the Emergency Responder Communication Coverage standard for new and existing buildings. South Davis Metro Fire is trying to inform Business Owners of the code requirements of this section that might impact their Business as the new system is implemented in our area. Once the new P25 System is implemented, a need might arise in some Businesses to install a BDA or a DAS system to ensure that the Emergency Responder Communication Coverage is adequate. This cost and implementation would be at the Business Owner's expense and would need to be installed in accordance with Section 510 of the IFC. Our goal is to provide you with the most current information and updates so you can have enough time to prepare for the potential impact on your Business.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 801-677-2400.

Respectfully,

Cole Fessler
Fire Marshal
South Davis Metro Fire Service Area

Board of Trustees: *Kendalyn Harris – Clark Wilkinson – Bob Stevenson – Brian Horrocks –
Ken Romney – Ryan Westergard*

P.O. Box 1547 • Bountiful, Utah 84011 • 801-677-2400 • Fax 801-677-0166



Utah Communications Authority

TINA MATHIU
Executive Director

Utah SWIC

Michael R. Veenendaal
Interoperability Division Director



To: Communications Stakeholders

From: Michael R. Veenendaal
Utah SWIC

Date: November 20, 2023

Subject: **BDA and DAS Systems**

The Utah Communications Authority (“UCA”) “maintain(s) a statewide public safety communications network for state agencies, public safety agencies, and public safety answering points.” Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-102(2)(b). As part of this responsibility, UCA is upgrading this public safety communications network to the digital P25 standard. To facilitate this upgrade, many of the frequencies currently being used will be changed. After our migration to the new P25 system most of the frequencies used by UCA will be in the 700MHz frequency range. Accordingly, owners and operators of Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA) and Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) systems should conduct a comprehensive assessment of their BDA and DAS systems to determine if their equipment will be operational within the 700MHz frequency, and to prepare and plan for the proper reprogramming of such BDA and DAS systems. Failure to properly make these changes could result in the loss of in-building coverage at the time of the system migration. **UCA is not announcing a reduction of coverage of its radio system because of this upgrade, instead UCA is providing notice to private owners of BDA and DAS systems of their need to upgrade their equipment to take advantage of the new system.**

Title 15A, Chapter 5 of the Utah Code adopts modifications within the International Fire Code, which is instructive as it relates to BDA and DAS systems. We encourage building owners and fire officials to consult the International Fire Code, specifically Section 510.4, when installing, amending, or operating BDA and DAS systems. Likewise, 47 CFR §90.219 requires

1 For reference, Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA) and Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) are commonly installed in brick-and-mortar buildings to provide reliable in-building coverage where there might not otherwise be coverage.

2 UCA recognizes that Utah Code Ann. §15A-2-203, in adopting the International Fire Code, amends Section 510.1 to add “When required by the fire code official,” at the beginning of first paragraph.



owners of Class B signal boosters or BDA and DAS systems, to obtain the consent of the licensee(s) owners Utah Communications Authority 5215 Wiley Post Way #550 Salt Lake City, UT 84116. 47 CFR §90.219 also requires BDA and DAS system installations to be registered with the FCC by going to www.fcc.gov/signal-boosters/registration. An application for such consent from UCA can be found on UCA's website, www.uca911.org, under our applications section.

We realize there are unregistered BDA and DAS systems in operation in Utah. Therefore, the Utah Communications Authority is seeking assistance from our Public Safety partners. Please share with your neighboring jurisdictions the need to report any BDA and DAS systems to UCA.

Please work with building owners to address any radio issues with the potential use of BDA or DAS systems and properly apply to UCA, as required.

Working together in this way will help assure our successful deployment of the new

Regards,

Mike Veenendaal
Interoperability Division Director
Utah SWIC