

**WMDT-TV Delmarva 47 News (ABC)**

**New Communication Helps Emergency Management**

By JOSH DAVIDSBURG (CAMBRIDGE, MD -- WMDT) 5/17/2005

Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich unveiled new radio technology for the Eastern Shore Emergency Management crews Tuesday.

Cambridge Assistant Fire Chief Calvin Stack says a 10-alarm warehouse fire two years ago sparked the interest in a new communication system.

"The communication are very poor because we didn't have the system we have now," says Stack.

Fourty companies from six counties worked for hours to get the flames under control.

Stack says about the new system, "If I had that then, we wouldn't have had the problems, we probably wouldn't have needed that many fire departments."

The new radio system is up and running to correct any communications problems that happened before. Cambridge Mayor C.L. Rippons stood answered the Governor's inaugural radio call from Reisterstown to test the system Tuesday.

Steve Williams is the Cambridge Public Safety Director.

"We're all able to communicate now and that makes public safety paramount," says Williams.

A 5.6 million dollar set-up connects all nine Maryland counties through the 800 megahertz radio system the counties have already implemented.

"We'll be able to talk to everyone, we won't have to send no runners, we'll be able to do what we wanted to do with that one we couldn't do," says Stack.

City officials say the new radio system will make everyone in Cambridge much safer, and everyone on the Shore.

Officials have been working on the project since 2003.