

Date: Wed, 9 Jul 2008
From: <>
To: Jim Conrad <jim@portsmouthvapolice.com>
Subject: Churchland High School - Radio Repeaters

You should like this. was a foot pursuit on Rivermill Circle, about 4000 feet from Churchland High.

It ended up turning into a Swat callout after it was found the suspect was hiding in an attic. Anyway, the entire time radio communication was horrible. I got there after it was turned into a callout. I could not talk to another officer 50 feet away and had to resort to walking over to communicate. Eventually the swat commander had the swat units switch to the sad excuse of a talkaround channel we have (which of course only "special" units have).

It's supposed to allow point to point radio communication and skip the repeater. Well as you may or may not know, for some reason our channel also rebroadcast every radio channel in the city (Fire dispatch, public works.. everybody.) today it was almost constantly rebroadcasting the 800 MHz data channel so it was almost constant digital garbage.

It was pathetic.

I can't believe the Fire Department hasn't raised hell here about the problem, but I suppose with their fairly low call volume in that area they don't know how bad it is. They're probably way more at risk of having somebody killed when they get trapped in a fire and can't call for help on the radio. At least we have a means to defend our selves.

Recently there was an Officer Involved shooting in Churchland, the suspect was killed. The only thing we got on the radio was "shots fired" and "send a medic and a supervisor" the officer couldn't transmit anything else and had to call on the phone to tell dispatch he was ok and give his situation.