

# Purchase order in works for radio upgrade

BY KATHARHYNN HEIDELBERG  
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Montrose County is acting to protect its backup communications system at its emergency operations center by upgrading outmoded equipment.

A new radio system is to be installed next month so that it can be tested out before the current system goes out of service.

"It replaces the entire circuit board standing-rack system. It's an update of radio electronics," County Emergency Manager Don Angell said Friday, after updating commissioners and commissioners-elect during a planning session.

The county must draft a purchase order this month for the \$350,000 upgrade so that the new, MCC 7100 equipment is online and functioning before the current system becomes obsolete in March.

The outmoded system works off a series of circuit boards stored in a large, unwieldy rack system. The newer MCC 7100, by contrast, is a box about 6 inches tall.

"The reason this is key is

because Montrose Regional Dispatch Center dispatches for multiple different agencies. That is our redundant communications system," for the emergency operations center, Angell said.

"If anything happened at MRDC, we would lose communication with several of the agencies (to which) we provide services. You always need to have a redundant ability, a backup. This (current system) is so dated it goes physically out of service at the end of March of 2017."

This past summer, dispatch agencies in the Durango/Cortez, Gunnison and Telluride areas lost connectivity due to construction mishaps that damaged fiber optics cables.

The Montrose dispatch center, operated by the sheriff's office, and the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WestCO) in the city took 911 calls for the affected areas, but also had to contend with subsequent damage that knocked out communications here.

The risk highlights the need to update the system at the Montrose County Emergency Operations Center, which has all

the radio frequencies used by the multiple agencies the sheriff's dispatch center serves.

The ops center also can function as a backup for WestCO, which services different agencies than does the sheriff's dispatch.

"It's a piece of equipment we have to have," Commissioner Glen Davis said. "We're going to be unable to communicate with other agencies if we don't update. We knew it was coming."

The expenditure is to be included in next year's budget, he said.

"We're going to have to buy it. It's not a case of if, or maybe. It's necessary by the change in communication and electronic equipment," Davis said.

The center is also awaiting a new generator, which has been delayed for at least a month because the manufacturer is backlogged.

"The emergency operations center is the main link for the whole Southwest region," Sheriff Rick Dunlap said.

"Everything goes through that tower. If that generator fails, that site goes down and it can affect the whole southwestern part of the state."



## Montrose's Ross Reels earns another prestigious award

BY MATT LINDBERG  
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A couple of months after announcing plans for its river corridor revamp project, Mayfly Outdoors has another reason to celebrate.

The company announced over the weekend its Ross Reels brand Colorado LT won Fly Fisherman Magazine's 2017 Freshwater Reel of the Year. Fly Fishing Magazine is considered the leading magazine of fly fishing.

The honor comes after Ross Reels won in July the Best New Reel in the Freshwater category during the International Fly Tackle Dealers Association trade show in Orlando, Florida.

"It's great," Mayfly Outdoors President David Drago told the Montrose Daily Press of the most-recent award. "I think it's always good when people recognize your hard work. It feels like

we're doing the right things."

Dragoo noted he's also feeling good about job growth within his company. He said in the last two years, the Montrose operation has improved from having 19 jobs to 32 — an increase of about 68 percent.

That's something Drago said he hopes to continue to build on as his company has a big economic development project in the works, as previously reported by the Montrose Daily Press. The project will be what Drago called a "world-renowned business park" aiming to attract outdoor-focused industries to relocate to Montrose and include river restoration and high-end commercial, residential and industrial development.

Visit [montrosepress.com](http://montrosepress.com) and read our Oct. 23 article "Mayfly Outdoors plans river corridor revamp" for more about the project.



## Watercolor night

(Above) Watercolor painting instructor Jodine Broscovak, left, speaks with former student Cathy Langlois and Gail Kralicek Saturday at the Fifth Annual Cobble Creek Watercolor Show in the clubhouse at Cobble Creek. Langlois teaches a watercolor class every Thursday at the clubhouse, which is open to the public, from October through April.

(Left) Jim Ritschard looks through a stack of watercolor paintings as Jodine Broscovak discusses the paintings with him Saturday at the Fifth Annual Cobble Creek Watercolor Show in the clubhouse at Cobble Creek. Langlois teaches a watercolor class every Thursday at the clubhouse, which is open to the public, from October through April. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)