

Fire Department upgrades communications

As of 6 p.m. Monday, June 2, all The Colony Fire Department radio operations have been moved to the PAWM (Plano, Allen, Wylie, Murphy) radio system.

The Colony Police Department has been on the PAWM system for a little over a year. PAWM is a P25 digital radio network that uses more advanced technology than the department's previous analog system.

Fire Chief Scott Thompson said the primary enhancements include an increased coverage area and system capacity. "On the old system, we had areas where the quality of the communications was poor," he said. "Those 'dead areas' will be eliminated through the new system."

PAWM's digital system also allows for units to talk simultaneously and provides enhanced cross-departmental communication. Operations within dispatch remain the same, only now if a fireman were to hit their panic button in the event of trouble, the call is routed directly to The Colony dispatch. Previously, internal emergency alerts of that nature were routed through the Denton County Sheriff's Office and then to local dispatch.

For more information, contact The Colony Fire Department at 972-625-3944.