

Ben Holycross - Bio

- Ben Holycross has been the Radio Systems Manager for Polk County Florida for the last 8 years. He has over 30 years in the Public Safety world including Law Enforcement and Emergency Management with the last 18 years in communications.
- In his current position he was involved in the final design, construction , implementation and ongoing management of the Polk County Motorola 800 MHz SmartZone radio system. This system provides county-wide portable radio coverage in a county the size of the States of Rhode Island or Delaware, some 2,200 square miles. Currently Polk County is completing a transition plan to migrate the radio system to an IP based P-25 system and bring the County School District on to the trunked system.
- In addition to local operations he has developed a Disaster Communications Response unit capable of deploying to a disaster area and establishing full spectrum communications capability from HF to Sat-Com including a Land Mobile Radio 800 MHz Trunked radio system, VHF and UHF conventional radio system repeaters, Military radio Re-Trans capability, Telephone Key System, WiFi Hot Spot Access Point, Tactical LAN and a Mobile Radio Shop with programming and repair capability.
- Prior to coming to Polk County Ben was the Communications Director for Lee County and oversaw the Radio System, E-9-1-1 system, Fire and EMS Dispatch Center, County Telephone systems, and a Data Network. covering the five counties of the Judicial District and Cable TV franchises.
- During his time in Lee County he built one of the first multi-agency trunked radio systems in the country, a new dispatch center and did Alpha and Beta testing before becoming the first Intergraph Computer Aided Dispatch system customer
- Ben has been a member of the F.C.C. Region 9 800 MHz Committee since its inception sitting as Vice Chairman for the first seven years of the committees existence and is currently Chairman of Sub-Region 5 and serves a similar capacity on the F.C.C. Region 9 700 MHz Committee..
- He has the distinction of being the only Radio System Manager to have had his system hit by 3 Hurricanes in one hurricane season. The Motorola SmartZone system which was hit three times in a six week period did not fail during any of the 3 Hurricanes.
- During his communications career he has been involved in disaster responses on fires, tornado damage, flooding, as well as during:
 - Hurricane Andrew
 - Hurricane Opal
 - Hurricane Charlie
 - Hurricane Frances
 - Hurricane Ivan
 - Hurricane Jeanne
 - Hurricane Dennis
 - Hurricane Katrina
 - Hurricane Wilma
- Ben is a member of:
 - The Motorola Trunked Users Group (MTUG)
 - The Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (A.P.C.O.)
 - The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)

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- Air Force Association (AFA)
- The Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA)
- U.S.A.F./CAP
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
- Mensa.