

## **Digital TV, Get the facts!**

There are a lot of questions floating around regarding Digital TV also known as DTV. First let's start with the basics what is Digital TV? Digital TV is the switch from analog to digital broadcast television. This switch was due to a mandate passed by congress stating that all off air analog broadcasts need to be broadcasted via a digital broadcast no later than February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

- Does this mean I need to buy a new TV?
  - No, you simply need to have a digital-to-analog converter box.
  - Visit <http://dtvfacts.com/digital-tv-converter-box> for information regarding how to obtain a digital-to-analog converter box.
- My kids play different games on my TV will they still work?
  - Yes, this is only in regards to how the broadcasters broadcast the signal to your television.

These are just a couple of the questions that come up. Bottom line is you don't need to purchase a new TV to be able to view the Digital TV broadcast. Even more if you are a cable/satellite subscriber, there is no change for you. Your cable companies will pickup the digital feed and display it through the digital converter box you have. I encourage everyone to visit either <http://dtvfacts.com/digital-tv-converter-box> or the FCC's site regarding the matter at <http://www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html>, to get more information regarding this topic. Please educate people around you, especially if you know someone who is elderly. This is not to pick on them, but I have had two friends of mine talked into spending money on a new television because they were told their TV that was only a couple years old would not work after February 2009, when in fact they did not need to do anything.

Also if you visit <http://dtvfacts.com/digital-tv-converter-box> you will find information regarding a coupon that depending on funding you may be able to get to help reduce the cost of the digital-to-analog converter box. The estimated cost of this box is around \$60.00. Note this is not an HDTV box, simply a digital-to-analog box, if you want to view HDTV provided by either your cable or satellite provider you will need to purchase a HDTV.

If you take the time to purchase and connect your digital-to-analog converter you can start using it right away as several areas are already starting to broadcast in digital as well as their existing analog broadcast. If you are looking at purchasing a new TV anyways you may want to do some research to see if the new TV you are looking at purchasing is DTV ready.

I hope you have found this article beneficial, and remember please review the links there is a lot of information out there explaining this change.

Thank you,  
Jason Rang, Chairman  
Rapid City Chamber Technology Committee

