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Office of Emergency Communications



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NCSWIC

Annual Report
2015



National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators

Chair: Bob Symons
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Table of Contents

Introduction..... 2

2015 NCSWIC Committees 2

May 2015 NCSWIC Meeting Overview..... 4

November 2015 Joint SAFECOM-NCSWIC Meeting Overview 5

Membership..... 7

2015 NCSWIC EC Elections..... 8

Regional Accomplishments..... 8

Region I 9

Region II 9

Region III 9

Region IV 10

Region VI 11

Region VII 11

Region VIII 12

Region IX 12

Region X 12

Year Ahead: Collaborative Efforts in 2016 13



Introduction



Established in July 2010, the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) assists state and territory interoperability coordinators with promoting the critical importance of emergency communications and the sharing of best practices to ensure the highest level of interoperability across the nation. NCSWIC members are composed of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) from the 56 states and territories. In this key role, SWICs leverage their relationships with partners involved in responding to disasters at all levels of government to advance long-term emergency

communications initiatives. NCSWIC members strive to enhance the interoperability capabilities of public safety responders by coordinating and collaborating with federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and non-governmental public safety responder agencies. As part of this effort, SWICs are responsible for the implementation of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP), which establish a vision for interoperability across the nation and within states. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) provides programmatic support to the NCSWIC and recognizes the critical role the SWICs serve organizing and executing interoperability efforts throughout the states and territories.

In 2015, NCSWIC members enhanced communications response capabilities for the public safety community through increased coordination and collaboration across all levels of government and multiple disciplines. This report provides a thorough overview of activities, products, and projects completed by NCSWIC members in 2015. Sections of the report review NCSWIC committee products and initiatives, in-person and web-based meeting outcomes, development of the NCSWIC Strategic Plan, SCIP revisions, and regional accomplishments.

2015 NCSWIC Committees

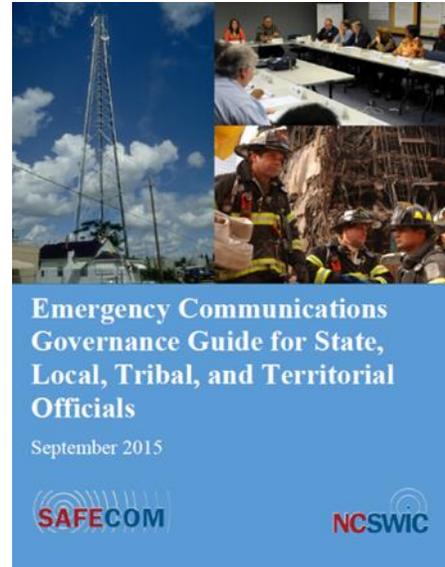
NCSWIC supported the progress of strategic priorities through its Governance Committee, Training & Exercises (T&E) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Committee, Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee, and Joint Technology Policy Committee. Similar to previous years, NCSWIC and SAFECOM¹ collaborated jointly on Funding and Sustainment and Technology Policy initiatives, while NCSWIC members independently focused on issues related to Governance and T&E and SOPs. Table 1 provides a summary of 2015 NCSWIC Committees as well as key initiatives, products, and activities. Many NCSWIC committee products, such as webinar presentations, white papers, and fact sheets, are available on the [NCSWIC website](#) or you may contact the [NCSWIC Inbox](#) to obtain electronic copies.

¹ SAFECOM was formed in 2001 after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 as part of the Presidential E-Government Initiative to improve public safety interoperability, allowing emergency responders to communicate effectively before, during, and after emergencies and disasters. SAFECOM's mission is to improve designated emergency response providers' inter-jurisdictional and inter-disciplinary emergency communications interoperability through collaboration with emergency responders across Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and international borders.



Governance Committee – The Governance Committee focused on emergency communications governance, as it relates to both the internal governance of the NCSWIC as well as supporting the development of guidance for states establishing statewide governing bodies. Committee work often included management of and modifications to guiding organizational documents, such as the NCSWIC Charter and NCSWIC Strategic Plan. As recommended in the 2014 NECP, the committee also developed guidance to assist states in updating statewide governance structures and processes to address the evolving public safety communications operating environment, reviewed NCSWIC initiatives, and identified best practices and lessons learned.

Members of the Governance Committee participated in the Governance Guide Working Group in which they developed the *2015 Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials* (a joint initiative with SAFECOM). The Governance Guide is a tool for public safety professionals at all levels of government and disciplines to establish, assess, and update governance structures that represent all emergency communications capabilities (Land Mobile Radio [LMR], broadband, 9-1-1/Next Generation 9-1-1 [NG 9-1-1], and alerts and warnings).



T&E and SOPs Committee – The T&E and SOPs Committee worked to develop best practices to support training and exercises within and among states. In 2016, the Committee changed its name to the Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee, and will continue to coordinate closely with OEC on service offerings throughout the year.

Funding and Sustainment – The Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee concentrated on identifying innovative ways to fund emergency communications systems and activities (i.e., personnel, training, equipment and technology, etc.) and included real world examples from state and localities pertinent to stakeholders at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels who are experiencing funding challenges. The group also prepared and disseminated information on appropriations and new funding sources to the public safety community at all levels of government.

Technology Policy Committee – The Joint Technology Policy Committee promoted the use of technologies, resources, and processes related to emergency communications and interoperability in coordination with SAFECOM. Specifically, the committee continued to support and promote broadband technology and deployment, and worked with federal partners to further other emerging and existing technologies within the emergency communications ecosystem (e.g., Next Generation 9-1-1 [NG 9-1-1], alerts and warnings, cybersecurity).

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



Table 1. NCSWIC Committees 2015 Priorities and Accomplishments

Strategic Priority	NCSWIC Committee Accomplishments
Governance	<p>Chair: Bob Symons (<i>January 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed the SWIC Orientation Package, including the Position Description Guide ✓ Revised and published the <i>NCSWIC Strategic Plan</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 NCSWIC Annual Report</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 NCSWIC Strategic Priorities Close-out Fact Sheet</i> ✓ Developed and published four <i>NCSWIC-SAFECOM Quarterly Newsletters</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>NCSWIC Monthly Bulletin</i> ✓ Developed and published the Introduction to NCSWIC presentation ✓ Developed and published the <i>Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials</i> ✓ Maintained NCSWIC’s internal governance structure
T&E and SOPs	<p>Co-Chairs: Michael Varney (<i>January 2015-October 2015</i>) and Nick Brown (<i>January 2015-October 2015</i>); Jessica Stolz (<i>November 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hosted an educational webinar on lessons learned from Georgia’s May 2015 mobile communication vehicle functional exercise ✓ Provided input on service offerings in coordination with SAFECOM and DHS OEC’s Technical Assistance (TA) Branch
Joint Funding and Sustainment	<p>Co-Chairs: Mark Grubb and Victoria Garcia (<i>January 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed and published <i>Funding Mechanisms for Public Safety Communications Systems</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>SAFECOM Guidance for Purchasing Broadband Equipment</i> ✓ Developed and published <i>Improving Grant Management</i> ✓ Hosted a webinar on Best Practices in Request for Proposal (RFP) Development ✓ Hosted a webinar focused on Georgia’s special local tax used to fund state communications upgrades ✓ Provided input into the <i>SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communication Grants</i>
Joint Technology Policy	<p>Chair: George Molnar (<i>January 2015-August 2015</i>); Craig Allen (<i>November 2015-current</i>)</p> <p>Vice Chair: Steve Staffier (<i>November 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed and published a primer on cybersecurity for the public safety community, including additional resource links ✓ Updated <i>The T-Band Giveback: Implications for the Public Safety Community</i>, a fact sheet on T-Band spectrum migration ✓ Drafted a T-Band Executive Briefing, including high-level talking points ✓ Provided input to the <i>Guidelines for Encryption and Land Mobile Radio Systems, Best Practices for Encryption and Project 25 (P25) Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Systems</i>, and <i>Public Safety Interoperability Implications of non-P25 Radio Technologies</i> ✓ Provided input to the Incident Management Information Sharing Capability Maturity Model ✓ Provided input on the implementation of the <i>2014 NECP</i> ✓ Hosted an in-person meeting in Boulder, Colorado, in August 2015

May 2015 NCSWIC Meeting Overview

Facilitated by OEC, members of SAFECOM and the NCSWIC convened at a joint meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, May 12-14, 2015, to receive updates on cross-border collaboration for interoperability between the U.S. and Canada along with current initiatives within the DHS Office for Interoperability and



Compatibility. Members also heard from a panel of experts on issues related to cyber security, including the Cyber Security Continuum and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework. Other sessions included committee working sessions for the joint Technology Policy and Funding and Sustainment committees, an update on the progress of the Emergency Communications Governance Guide, and an open forum to discuss how OEC can improve stakeholder program support.

NCSWIC members held a separate meeting, in which members participated in a panel on SWIC succession planning, funding, and sustainment. NCSWIC members also heard from the OEC Deputy Director on a new bill in support of the SWICs and from the Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, and Alabama SWICs on communications coordination and lessons learned during three separate real-world emergency incidents. Additionally, SWICs met in their committees to validate 2015 work products and identified mid-range goals for 2016 and 2017. Finally, NCSWIC members received updates from the OEC on TA offerings and services, P25 standards and encryption, and opportunities for coordination with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC). Finally, members participated in a working session to discuss the “Introduction to NCSWIC” presentation. The purpose of the working session was to revise the presentation and obtain additional feedback from the SWICs. The current version of the presentation is meant to provide stakeholders with a brief overview of roles and responsibilities of the NCSWIC, the projects its members are working on, and what individual state stakeholders can accomplish through a partnership with NCSWIC.

November 2015 Joint SAFECOM-NCSWIC Meeting Overview

Facilitated by OEC, members of SAFECOM and NCSWIC convened at a joint meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, November 3-4, 2015, to collaborate on current and future initiatives affecting public safety emergency communications, including the T-Band migration, governance and sustainment of interoperability at the state level, maintaining and upgrading LMR systems, and building a national COMU program. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas provided the keynote address and DHS’ Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection Caitlin Durkovich provided additional opening remarks. Deputy Secretary Mayorkas emphasized the importance of coordinated partnerships at the federal, state, local, and territorial levels for achieving sustainable interoperable communications, and conveyed his commitment toward realizing the work SAFECOM members and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) do in their respective associations and states.

Following an informational panel-session led by subject matter experts from the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS), and the Massachusetts SWIC, SAFECOM and NCSWIC members participated in a working session focused on developing an executive briefing for T-Band issues, led by the Joint Technology Policy Committee. The goal of this session was to develop talking points on the current status of the T-Band spectrum migration to assist associations and states in educating officials on the issues.



National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



SAFECOM and NCSWIC members also participated in a panel session to highlight the existing governance structures in four states: Texas, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Utah, and the challenges associated with using various types of authority (i.e., statutory vs. executive order) to support the SWIC position. Following the panel session, members participated in a facilitated question and answer session. Many of the questions surrounded the need for legislatively-driven progress to strengthen governance. A second governance and sustainment session focused on discussing and defining the role of the SWIC.

Members also shared ideas on how to educate state and local officials on the importance of maintaining and upgrading LMR systems, including sharing effective outreach strategies. A panel, comprised of the SAFECOM Funding and Sustainment Committee Chair and Co-Chair, presented basic information on LMR and broadband technologies, and potential talking points stakeholders can use to educate state and local officials. Panelists emphasized the need to provide state and local officials with basic information on why public safety is important, current issues affecting LMR systems, and how public safety communications systems are different from communications that are used in day-to-day life (e.g., cell phones). The Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee developed a set of LMR papers to educate decision-makers on the need to sustain LMR systems. Final versions of these documents can be found on the [SAFECOM website](#).

An information panel and working session were also conducted to discuss the current state of COMU offerings and establish next steps for COMU priority areas. Members discussed the need for a national credentialing baseline standard for communication units, as well as a nationwide baseline curriculum to cover different communication methods so that participants understand the different communications areas (e.g., voice, internet protocol, etc.) critical to the big picture. In addition to credentialing trainings and identifying who needs to be credentials, there is a need to update national-level trainings to include communications models.

Other session topics covered the 20th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing, emergency communication grant guidance, encryption, and building a stronger, collaborative relationship with the (FPIC). FPIC serves as a coordination and advisory body to address technical and operational wireless issues relative to interoperability within the federal emergency communications community as well as state and local agencies. A representative from FPIC discussed several documents in development for encryption in LMR systems. The OEC Policy and Planning Branch briefed members on the current status of emergency communications grant guidance development. The Branch discussed trends in emergency communications, noting that states continually rank emergency communications as a top priority and major area of investment for DHS and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. Of note, [2016 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#) include the incorporation of a DHS-specific appendix requiring stakeholders to purchase standards-based (P25) equipment, unless there is compelling reason to purchase non-standards-based equipment.

NCSWIC and SAFECOM Executive Committees also met following the joint meeting to discuss internal business and strategic priorities for 2016.

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



2015 NCSWIC EC Elections

In accordance with the NCSWIC Charter, RIC Chairs/EC members serve two-year terms. In September 2015, an election for the odd-numbered regions (I, III, V, VII, and IX) was held. No changes in representation occurred in Region V; however, several NCSWIC members joined the NCSWIC EC from Regions I, III, VII, and IX. Additionally, a NCSWIC member joined from Region IV. The results of the election are as follows:

- Region I Co-chairs: Steve Staffier, Massachusetts; John Stevens, New Hampshire
- Region III: Mark Grubb, Delaware
- Region V Co-chairs: Joe Galvin, Illinois; Brad Stoddard, Michigan
- Region VII: Jason Bryant, Kansas
- Region IX: Victoria Garcia, Hawaii

The NCSWIC Charter states that the NCSWIC EC elects its Chair and Vice Chair biennially from the elected EC Members at the first meeting after October 1st. At the November meeting, the NCSWIC EC elected Bob Symons as the NCSWIC EC Chair and Nikki Cassingham was elected as the NCSWIC EC Vice Chair.

Highlights from the NCSWIC EC Meetings

In 2015, the NCSWIC EC participated in a number of teleconferences and in-person meetings. During these meetings, the group discussed activities conducted by their RICs, recent federal program updates, and announcements related to committee activities.

The NCSWIC EC met on the following dates:

- 1) January 13, 2015 – Conference Call
- 2) February 12, 2015 – Conference Call
- 3) March 25, 2015 – In-Person, Portland Oregon
- 4) June 30, 2015 – Conference Call
- 5) August 5, 2015 – In-Person, Boulder, Colorado
- 6) October 13, 2015 – Conference Call
- 7) November 5, 2015 – In-Person, Norman, Oklahoma
- 8) December 8, 2015 – Conference Call

Regional Accomplishments

The RICs were developed to promote communication and collaboration among SWICs with the purpose of establishing interoperable communications solutions with neighboring states and FEMA regions. The RICs also serve as the venue to ensure the actions and guidance sought by the EC are communicated, vetted, and implemented. Each region has its own RIC Chair and Vice Chair. RIC membership includes the SWIC and alternate SWIC from each state or territory in the region. Below are summaries of the RIC accomplishments for 2015.

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



Region I

In 2015, Region I states took significant steps towards enhancing interoperable and emergency communications, specifically:

- In Massachusetts, a statewide radio system for public safety use has been built out as well as expansion and use of regional systems. Massachusetts has expanded communications programs, and has an experienced cadre of COML and COMT personnel for planned and real-world events.
- New Hampshire continues to leverage its Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) working groups to address critical interoperable communications needs in the State through meaningful partnerships at all levels and across all public safety disciplines.
- Vermont is increasingly using data and mobile applications to coordinate responses to severe weather and hazardous road conditions or incidents, and increasing coordination between responders (e.g., emergency first responders, transportation and dispatchers) in the state and neighboring states to ensure up-to-date situational awareness of incidents. The state has implemented a statewide NG 9-1-1 system and made extensive preparations for public safety broadband.

Region II

Several achievements for Region II include:

- New York City hosted Pope Francis in September 2015. The pope's visit coincided with the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly where the Pope addressed representatives from 170 countries. This occasion was considered a National Security Special Event. The coordination effort across multiple agencies, across all levels of government, the development of an interagency communications plan, and a willingness to be part of the interoperability solution was an example of emergency communications.
- In Puerto Rico, the commonwealth and municipalities conducted communications exercises with success, including coordination among Federal agencies (e.g., Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Coast Guard) during a planned event (e.g., four-day festival). Additionally, the commonwealth completed its initiative to have internet connectivity at every fire station.
- In the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), the territory-wide Communications Interoperability Governing Board (TWCIGB) is meeting regularly. Due to the unique geographic nature of the territory, the TWCIGB has taken advantage of video teleconference capabilities to maximize participation from St. Thomas and St. Croix and has briefed some stakeholder groups (e.g., Emergency Management Council) on the SCIP and TWCIGB. Additionally, USVI conducted Operation Tide Breaker, a full-scale multi-hazard and maritime exercise to test many areas of preparedness. The Virgin Islands National Guard's 23rd Civil Support Team is heavily engaged in the design and execution of this exercise which tests information sharing and dissemination as well as communications.

Region III

Region III spent much of 2015 working towards improving statewide systems. A few regional accomplishments include:

- Delaware implemented a statewide Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and upgraded its NG 9-1-1 system. Additionally, Delaware integrated bi-directional amplifiers to enhance in-building coverage. The state has found obtaining funding for enhancing its P25 system challenging.

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



- Maryland and Delaware began sharing interoperable channels over a statewide radio system. In addition, Maryland FIRST became interoperable statewide. Maryland was successful in obtaining funding for its statewide CAD Records Management System. Finally, Maryland has centralized data collection sharing across law enforcement.
- Pennsylvania made strides towards replacing its OpenSky system with a P25 system. Also, there is an Executive Order signed codifying a governance structure. Pennsylvania faced challenges in 2015 with transitioning to NG 9-1-1.
- Virginia received authorization to hire SWIC and SPOC support. Virginia also worked towards upgrading to NG 9-1-1.
- The District of Columbia (D.C.) formalized its Interoperability Communications Committee and SIEC structures within the D.C. Government. The district continues to face challenges with data interoperability in a multi-jurisdictional area.
- West Virginia signed frequency agreements with the Department of Justice and the Maryland Washington-Allegany-Garrett Interoperability Network (WAGIN) for redundancy of the West Virginia Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN). Seventeen federal agencies use SIRN daily and eight bordering state agencies also utilize SIRN for communication. Region IV

In 2015, achievements and challenges for Region IV included:

- Alabama developed a better understanding of where its communication gaps existed. The state experience some challenges with securing funding to maintain and improve its communications interoperability.
- Florida advanced the SWIC position. The state is in the final stages of establishing its Integrated Public Alert & Warning System.
- Georgia held a mobile communication vehicle functional exercise in May 2015.
- Kentucky explored ways to engage FirstNet.
- North Carolina hosted Brach exercises and rallies. The state also updated its SCIP to align with the NECP.
- South Carolina worked to update its needs and goals to enhance an online training.

Region V

During 2015, Region V remained focused on upgrading statewide interoperability systems, planning for new and emerging technologies, drafting and completing Field Operation Guides (FOG), and developing COMU governance and training programs. Other regional accomplishments for 2015 include:

- Michigan's Communications Unit Working Group is in the process of drafting Michigan's first Tactical Interoperable Communication Field Operation Guide (TIC-FOG).
- Minnesota worked on U.S.-Canada cross border communications by licensing Ontario communications system frequencies that connect to the Minnesota Statewide Radio System. Additionally, Minnesota coordinated an interstate interoperability connection between Polk County, Minnesota Public Safety, and Grand Forks County, North Dakota Public Safety.
- Ohio hired a new SWIC, and the Ohio SIEC Communications sub-committee completed Ohio's first TIC-FOG.
- Wisconsin revised its SIEC governance structure and released the first version of its TIC-FOG.

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



- Illinois continues to struggle with staffing a fulltime SWIC. States in this region agree that funding the SWIC as a contract employee through grant funds impedes interoperability initiatives.

Region VI

Accomplishments during 2015 in Region VI included the following:

- Arkansas completed its Arkansas Tactical Interoperable Communications Field Operations Guide.
- Louisiana appointed a new SWIC, Sammy Williams, who currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Office of Technology Services.
- New Mexico is close to completing the New Mexico Communications Field Operations Guide (NM-CFOG).
- Oklahoma updated its Oklahoma COMU State Qualification Recognition Procedure. Currently, Oklahoma has 13 State Qualified COMLs, and 17 State Qualified COMTs.
- Texas established its Texas Statewide Coordinated P25 Radio Unit Identification Plan. Texas also completed a Communications FOG, an updated Regional Standard Operating Procedures Template, and a Basic Interoperable Communications Training curriculum.

Region VII

In 2015, Region VII focused on improving the gaps in interoperable communications, increasing interstate interoperability, holding COML and COMT trainings, and hosting SCIP workshops. Examples of accomplishments in Region VII include:

- Iowa signed an agreement for construction of a statewide voice P25 700 MHz Phase 2 LMR system to be deployed regionally. Additionally, the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board passed a series of policy statements to address gaps in Iowa's interoperable communications.
- Kansas increased its executive involvement in advancing interstate interoperability. This initiative is side-by-side with FirstNet as one of the top issues for the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. Furthermore, Kansas SIEC approved a written Kansas State Interoperability Communications System Standard Operating Procedures guide. Kansas also completed All-Hazards COML, COMT and AUXCOMM credentialing policy. Finally, Kansas participated in a regional exercise on hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, law enforcement tactical operations, emergency medical services, and fire service at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas.
- Missouri focused on bringing new public safety agencies on to the Missouri Statewide Interoperability System (MOSWIN), which includes programming radio equipment, providing technical assistance, and communications training and exercises. The MOSWIN System Administration daily system tasks include monitoring system performance, infrastructure enhancement, and development of local and regional interoperable communications plans. Additionally, the Missouri SWIC published the updated Missouri FOG, regional SCIP plans, KC-Urban Areas Security Initiative SCIP, Communications Drill After Action Report, and Regional Mobile Command Communications Vehicles contact information in the ICTAP Public Safety Training Tool Missouri Library.

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



- Nebraska re-established the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council. Additionally, Nebraska continued the expansion and testing of the Nebraska Statewide Radio System (SRS). The Nebraska Department of Roads now operates on the SRS.

Region VIII

Some of Region VIII's achievements in 2015 include:

- Colorado successfully established a multi-jurisdictional Inter RF Subsystem Interface between the statewide Digital Trunked Radio and regional systems in the Denver metropolitan area.
- South Dakota effectively developed and implemented a regional communications plan for Black Hills and the 75th Sturgis Rally, improving both operability and interoperability in the area.
- Utah expanded coverage, with the addition of six more sites, on its 800 MHz trunked network in South Central Utah. This is improving interoperability. Utah has experienced some challenges with obtaining funding for operation, expansion, and lifecycle management of the Utah Communications Agency network.
- Wyoming continues to experience challenges obtaining funding for WyoLink. WyoLink is a statewide digital trunked VHF P-25 compliant public safety communications system designed to coordinate and integrate communications between state, local, and federal public safety agencies.

Region IX

In 2015, Region IX states took significant steps towards enhancing interoperable and emergency communications. Several accomplishment include:

- Arizona continued to improve its training for COML and COMT. Additionally, Arizona began developing a strong framework for its new AUXCOMM training program. Finally, Super Bowl XLIX was a great success. There were no communication issues identified following the event.
- California certified two COML/AUXCOM trainers, and several communication exercises and multiple real world interoperable communication events were successfully completed. The CalSIEC continues to become more active throughout the state to help facilitate interoperable communications planning and usage.
- In Hawaii, the SWIC position gained prominence for its assistance to the state. Additionally, local and county equivalent communications officials appeared before the governor's staff and legislature regarding public safety communications.
- In 2015, Nevada successfully grew its AUXCOMM training program. Nevada also worked on furthering its connections and outreach with tribes in the state.
- Guam is on track to replace its 25 year old radio system, but there is a question from leadership about why a P25 system should be the required replacement. A U.S. Department of the Interior grant will be used to fund the replacement.

Region X

During 2015, states in Region X focused on LMR sustainment, implementing training and exercise programs, and hosting SCIP workshops. Other accomplishments in 2015 included the following:

- Alaska completed an LMR user testimonial [video as an informational resource](#).

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators 2015 Annual Report



- Idaho reached 10,000 users on its state system. The Idaho Emergency Management Association held its first annual conference in Boise. During the 2015 Idaho Emergency Management Association Conference, an exercise was held that provided an opportunity for the emergency management community to practice using WebEOC, a web-based tool utilized by emergency managers in Idaho to facilitate event reporting, situational awareness, and resources. A total of 76 personnel took part in the exercise, including representation from 33 counties, two tribes, seven public health districts, three state agencies, the National Weather Service, and the American Red Cross.
- Oregon focused much of 2015 on determining the state of interoperability throughout the state and setting goals to address future needs of the public safety community. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Transportation is working to replace aging public safety communications systems statewide, and Oregon held its first Oregon Radio Conference in September 2015.
- Washington spent part of 2015 preparing for the Cascadia Rising 2016 Functional Exercise to be held in June 2016. This exercise is intended to test the ability of state, local, tribal, federal government, and select private sector and non-governmental organizations to jointly respond to a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Region X, like many regions, encountered challenges consolidating 9-1-1 and NG 9-1-1. For instance, Alaska is facing significant fiscal challenges, posing a risk to the continued sustainment of its LMR system. The above-referenced video is one part of the public and legislative outreach plan to solve that issue.

Year Ahead: Collaborative Efforts in 2016

During the Joint SAFECOM-NCSWIC Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, on November 3-4, 2015, SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and OEC staff convened to discuss pressing strategic priorities for the remainder of 2015. These priorities included T-Band spectrum migration, governance and sustainment of interoperability at the state level, maintaining and upgrading LMR systems, and building a national COMU program. In 2016, the NCSWIC committees will continue to drive priorities from 2015 and related work products. The Governance Committee will continue its efforts to manage and maintain core program documents, improve governance, and improve the NCSWIC's orientation program. The Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee will continue to focus on providing guidance and best practices for planning, training, and exercising related to public safety communications at all levels of government as it relates to the SWIC. The Funding and Sustainment Committee will develop guidance for NG 9-1-1, LMR sustainment, and grants, as well as lifecycle funding. The Technology Policy Committee will focus its efforts on T-Band migration and cybersecurity. Finally, the NCSWIC will meet in person in April and October.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit the NCSWIC website at www.dhs.gov/SAFECOM/NCSWIC or email NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov