

SAFECOM

2015 SAFECOM Strategic Priorities Summary of Accomplishments

Throughout 2015, SAFECOM members worked to enhance the coordination and capabilities of the public safety community through the development and facilitation of various goals and initiatives. As such, SAFECOM members identified strategic priorities and developed related work products through their four committees: 1) Education and Outreach, 2) Funding and Sustainment, 3) Governance, and 4) Technology Policy. Similar to previous years, SAFECOM and the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) deliberated jointly on Funding and Sustainment and Technology Policy, while SAFECOM members focused independently on issues related to Education and Outreach and Governance. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) assisted with administering the program's committee work and facilitated committee meetings. This document provides a summary of 2015 committees as well as products, activities, and key initiatives accomplished throughout the year (see Table 1). Many committee products are now available on the [SAFECOM website](#) or you may contact the [SAFECOM inbox](#) to obtain electronic copies.

2015 SAFECOM Committee and Working Group Descriptions

Education and Outreach – The Education and Outreach Committee promoted the role of SAFECOM and its impact on public safety communications nationwide. The Committee directed communication efforts with other SAFECOM committees and member organizations in order to accomplish common initiatives and avoid duplication. The Committee also managed working groups, including:

- *Communications Unit (COMU) Working Group*: Tasked with exploring solutions to concerns regarding the current state of COMU, establishing a national program, associated training and credentialing, and a lack of awareness among the first responder community on COMU resources.

Funding and Sustainment (joint) – The Funding and Sustainment Committee concentrated on identifying innovative ways to fund emergency communications systems and activities (i.e., training, personnel, etc.) pertinent to stakeholders at the state territorial, tribal, and local levels. The group also prepared and disseminated information on appropriations and new funding sources available to the public safety community at all levels of government.

Governance – The Governance Committee focused on emergency communications governance, both internal to SAFECOM as well as assisting states in establishing statewide governance bodies for emergency communications. This included managing and providing modifications to core program documents, such as the *SAFECOM Charter* and *Strategic Plan*. As recommended in the *2014 National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)*, the Committee updated statewide governance structures including processes to address the evolving public safety communications-operating environment, reviewed SAFECOM initiatives, and identified best practices and lessons learned. The Committee managed several working groups, including:

- *Membership Working Group*: Tasked with managing the membership for SAFECOM and identifying new members.
- *SAFECOM Award Working Group*: Tasked with developing and managing the SAFECOM Marilyn J. Praisner Leadership Award.
- *Annual Report Working Group*: Tasked with developing the *SAFECOM Annual Report*.
- *Strategic Plan Working Group*: Tasked with developing the annual *SAFECOM Strategic Plan*.
- *Governance Guide Working Group*: Tasked with developing the *2015 Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials* (a joint initiative with NCSWIC).

Technology Policy (joint) – The Technology Policy Committee promoted the use of technologies, resources, and processes related to emergency communications and interoperability in coordination with NCSWIC efforts. Specifically, the Technology Policy Committee continued to support land mobile radio (LMR) systems, promoted broadband technology and

deployment, and worked with Federal partners to further various technologies within the emergency communications ecosystem (e.g., Next Generation 9-1-1, alerts and warnings, cybersecurity).

TABLE 1. 2015 SAFECOM COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMITTEE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<p>EDUCATION & OUTREACH</p>	<p>Chair: Mark Grub (<i>December 2013 – November 2015</i>); Christopher Lombard (<i>November 2015-present</i>) Vice Chair: Wes Rogers (<i>December 2013 – present</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed and published the <i>SAFECOM Executive Briefing</i> ✓ Developed an article about SAFECOM for the Association of Public-Safety Officials (APCO) Newsletter ✓ Developed and published the <i>NCSWIC-SAFECOM Quarterly Newsletter</i> ✓ Developed and distributed the SAFECOM Broadband Mapping Survey ✓ Revised the <i>SAFECOM Fact Sheet</i> ✓ Maintained SAFECOM’s website ✓ Evaluated the SAFECOM Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Community ✓ Developed and published the <i>SAFECOM Monthly Bulletin</i> ✓ Established the COMU Working Group ✓ Organized the requisition and distribution of SAFECOM shirts
<p>FUNDING & SUSTAINMENT</p>	<p>Chair: Steve Proctor (<i>December 2013 – November 2015</i>); Tom Roche (<i>November 2015-present</i>) Vice Chair: Tom Roche (<i>December 2013 – November 2015</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> ✓ Provided input into the <i>SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants</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
<p>GOVERNANCE</p>	<p>Chair: Doug Aiken (<i>December 2013 – present</i>) Vice Chair: Chris Lombard (<i>December 2013 – November 2015</i>); Don Bowers (<i>November 2015-present</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintained SAFECOM’s internal governance structure ✓ Continued to identify potential new associations and organizations for SAFECOM membership ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 SAFECOM Strategic Priorities Summary of Accomplishments</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 SAFECOM Annual Report</i> ✓ Developed criteria for the Marilyn J. Praisner SAFECOM Leadership Award ✓ Developed and published the revised <i>SAFECOM Charter</i> ✓ Developed the <i>SAFECOM Strategic Plan</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2015 Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials</i> (Joint Governance Guide Working Group with NCSWIC) ✓ Developed recommendations for updating the governance structure of the SAFECOM Executive Committee
<p>TECHNOLOGY POLICY</p>	<p>Chair: Gerald Reardon (<i>December 2013 – present</i>); Vice Chair: Terry Hall (<i>November 2015 – present</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 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 P25 Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Systems, and Public Safety Interoperability Implications of non-P25 Radio Technologies</i> ✓ Provided input to the <i>Incident Management Information Sharing Capability Maturity Model</i> ✓ Provided input on the implementation of the <i>NECP</i> ✓ Hosted an in-person meeting in Boulder, Colorado, in August 2015

For questions regarding the SAFECOM Program, please contact the [SAFECOM Inbox](#).