

LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FIRST RESPONDING ORGANIZATIONS

Critical data is not available to all organizations (including fire, law enforcement, and EMS) responding to an emergency because the Computer-Aided-Dispatch (CAD) systems that support each agency are unable to electronically exchange information. Because of this lack of interoperability, a unified, timely command is difficult. Situational awareness suffers and operational inefficiencies may be introduced that negatively impact the optimum response to an incident. This not only burdens first responders but increases risk to public safety.

UNDERSTANDING CAD AND ITS IMPACT

There is a distinct need to:

- Understand the CAD interoperability landscape today
- Define interoperability, associated requirements, and their specifications to encourage interoperability
- Determine performance specifications, validate testing methodologies, and encourage agency inclusion
- Leverage existing national systems

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY

New advances in technology have transformed challenges into opportunities and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recognizes the national need for interoperability and is providing leadership to develop a viable solution.

A RESILIENT RESPONSE, A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

The overarching objective is to achieve a resilient public safety CAD-to-CAD ecosystem that is efficient, interoperable, and supports multi-discipline response to regional, multistate, and national events. The performance objectives for this project are:

- Landscape assessment to understand current state of CAD interoperability and its challenges



- Determine conformance specifications, validating testing methodologies, and encourage agency inclusion of the specifications to foster broader adoption
- Identify potential stakeholders to involve further standards and future partners for possible pilot programs
- Final report making recommendations on actions and next steps

A DISTINCT IMPACT TO FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITIES AT LARGE

The seamless exchange of data that is technology agnostic and without geographic or agency response area boundaries is a core element of interoperability in the public safety environment. The cost savings and resiliency improvements that the US can achieve can be substantial.