

SAFECOM

BACKGROUND

SAFECOM was formed in 2001 after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 to improve public safety communications across the nation. Since its formation, SAFECOM has aimed to improve interoperability, allowing emergency responders to communicate through different communication systems to exchange information.

MISSION

SAFECOM aims to improve multi-jurisdictional and intergovernmental communications interoperability through collaboration with emergency responders and policymakers across Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and international partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAFECOM has played an important role in improving interoperability through a variety of accomplishments and initiatives.

Communications Unit Leader (COML) Courses

In a joint venture with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), SAFECOM provided input to the development of the first COML training course. This course trains emergency responders on how to serve as radio communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations. Offered by

OEC's Technical Assistance program, the training equips emergency responders with the tools they need to improve communications across the multiple disciplines and jurisdictions responding to an incident.

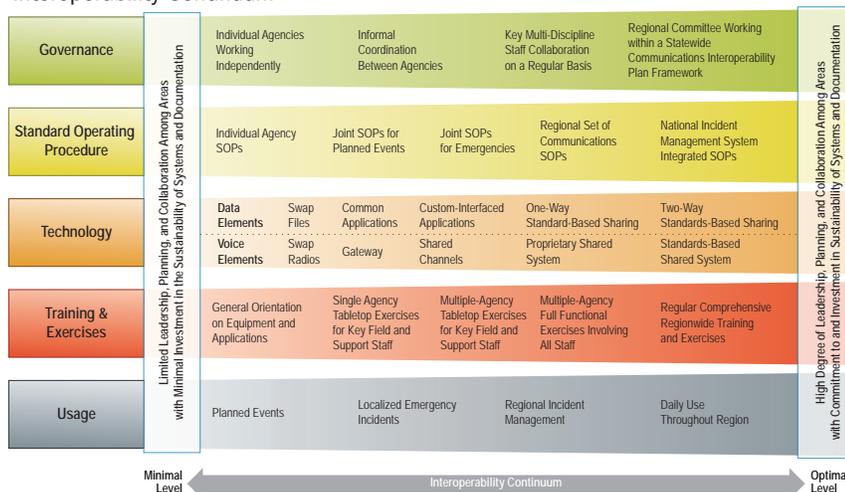
Grant Guidance

SAFECOM members started coordinating grant guidance in 2003. This effort continues to ensure that the emergency response communications related grants process is efficient and effective for State, local, tribal, and territorial recipients. The grant guidance document is updated annually and provides guidance on eligible emergency communications activities and equipment.

Interoperability Continuum

In 2007, SAFECOM began collaboration with OEC to help States, tribes, regions, and communities assess their current level of interoperability and to determine what elements need further development. The interoperability continuum focuses on five key areas: governance, standard operating procedures, technology (voice and data), training and exercises, and usage. The brochure, and its corresponding graphic, depicts what is accomplished at each end of the spectrum under low and high degrees of leadership, planning, and resources. This continuum continues to aid public safety practitioners and policy makers to help them plan for short- and long-term interoperability efforts.

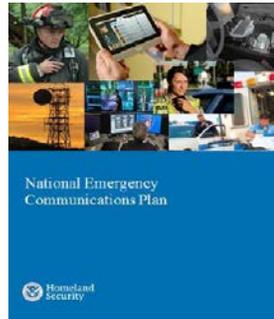
Interoperability Continuum



National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)

The NECP is the first National plan for emergency communications and outlines key priorities and milestones that help to enhance governance, planning, technology, training, exercises, and improvements in disaster communications capabilities. SAFECOM provides critical feedback during the development, implementation, and revision stages of the NECP implementation and revision process.

National Emergency Communications Plan



tribal, and territorial emergency responders, and major intergovernmental and national public safety associations. In collaboration with its Federal partners, SAFECOM members provide input on the challenges, needs, and best practices involving emergency communications.

Strategic Priorities

Each year, SAFECOM focuses on several selected priorities. SAFECOM forms working groups to address these priorities and collaborate on products and activities to distribute to SAFECOM members and its stakeholders. Priorities include Broadband Outreach, Funding and Sustainment, Land Mobile Radio, Next Generation 911, and SAFECOM Outreach and Education.

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Methodology

In 2007, SAFECOM, the National Institute of Justice, and the Commonwealth of Virginia partnered to create the first strategic plan for improving statewide interoperable communications. The Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) continues to be a critical tool to help States prioritize resources, establish or strengthen governance, and address interoperability gaps. To keep the SCIP current with the changing communications environment, OEC revised the SCIP structure and criteria with stakeholder input to be more streamlined and focused on the strategic direction and alignment of voice and data emergency communications at all levels of government, as well as to serve as a mechanism to demonstrate funding priorities to leadership and elected officials. OEC assists States and territories in updating their SCIPs by bringing together key stakeholders to identify and address communications interoperability gaps and enhance interoperable and emergency communications based on the State's needs.

Statement of Requirements (SoR)

Released by SAFECOM in 2004, the SoR helped define baseline communication and interoperability standards for the Nation's 60,000 emergency response agencies.

MEMBERSHIP

SAFECOM is one of the first organizations to bring together representatives from public safety associations as well as emergency responders in the field. Its membership includes more than 70 members representing State, local,

NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

Congress approved the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, in February 2012. This act authorizes a nationwide interoperable broadband network to help public safety responders and officials communicate efficiently during emergencies. The creation of this national network architecture falls under the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). FirstNet holds the spectrum license to build, deploy, and operate the network, in consultation with Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial public safety entities and other key stakeholders. Many SAFECOM members serve on FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), which provides public safety subject matter expertise to FirstNet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website

<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/default.aspx>

Email

SAFECOMgovernance@hq.dhs.gov

Association Contact