

# Partnerships and the Future of Interoperability

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August 24, 2010



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# Office of Emergency Communications

**Mission:** OEC supports and promotes the ability of emergency responders and government officials to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters, and works to ensure, accelerate, and attain interoperable and operable emergency communications nationwide.



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# Coordination through Partnerships

## State, Local, and Tribal Coordination

- Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG)
- SAFECOM Executive Committee/Emergency Response Council (EC/ERC)
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinators



## Federal Coordination

- Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC)
- Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups (RECCWG)

## Private Sector Coordination

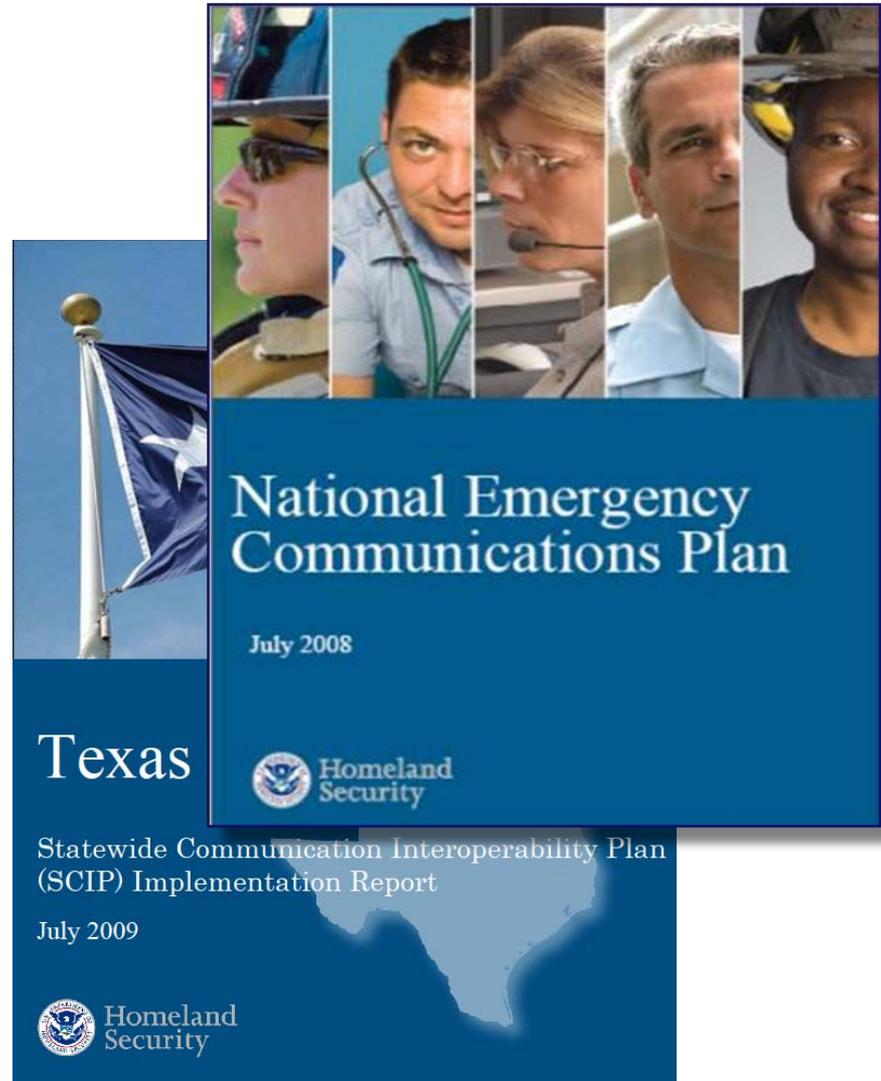
- Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC)
- President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)



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# The Impact of National and Statewide Plans

- Alignment of National, State, and Local Plans
- Identifications of Gaps and Development of Solutions
- Targeted Technical Assistance and Grant Funding



# Preliminary Findings:

## Working Well

- **Goal Achievement** – Response-Level Emergency Communications has been consistently demonstrated for routine events
- **Comm Plans** – Most jurisdictions are consistently using ICS 205 forms for event communications (although quality varies)
- **COMLs** – Are valued and appropriately leveraged by the event's leadership in most UASIs
- **Plain language** – Usage has improved significantly since 2006 TICP exercises.
- **Infrastructure** – Technology capability is adequate and functions well when used as documented in SOPs
- **Peer Observers** – Bring valuable insight to the observation teams

# Preliminary Findings:

## Areas For Improvement

- **Inconsistent use and understanding of NIMS/ICS in the areas of:**
  - **Planning** – Multiple and/or inconsistent Incident Action Plans including ICS 205s (usually by discipline)
  - **Primary Operational Leadership** –The position of Operations Chief is being fulfilled by multiple individuals (used by discipline), rather than one
    - Leads to duplicative and/or inconsistent information being communication to subordinates
    - In many case no “net” is established between these individuals (rely on face-to-face)
- **Ability to maintain response-level communications during significant escalation**
  - Routine events have provided limited stress on systems and organizational command structures
  - Some communications plans (205) and organizational structures appear vulnerable to being overwhelmed/overloaded during rapid increase in activity



# Support for Texas



**COML Training Sites**

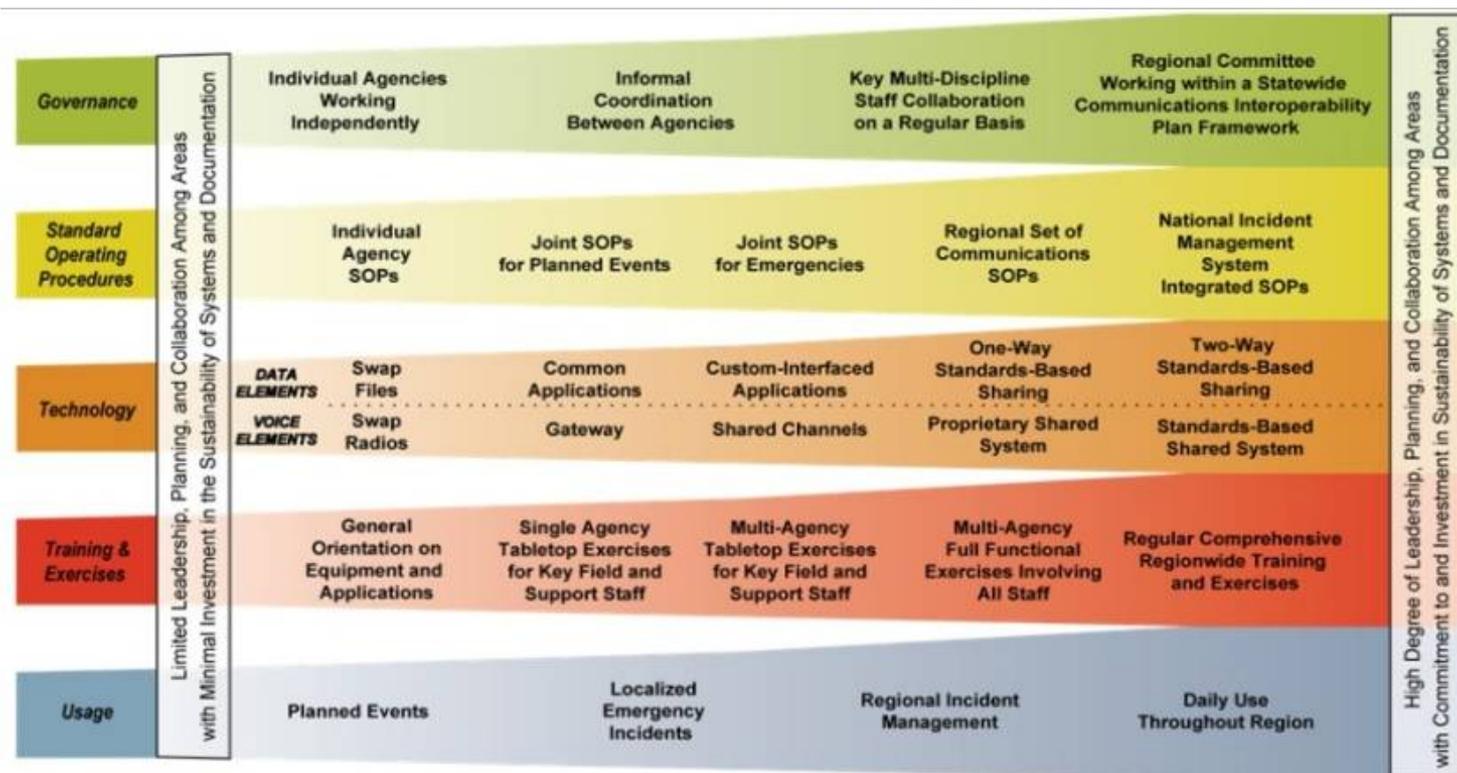
## **Technical Assistance**

- 8 TA Engagements
- **COML Training**
  - 14 COML Classes
  - Over 300 COMLS Trained
- **SCIP Implementation**
  - 2 Workshops (2009, 2010)
- **NECP Goals Implementation**
  - 4 Goal 1 Demonstration Events Completed, 1 Scheduled
- **Grants: IECGP**
  - \$7,279,275



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# Broadband and the Interoperability Continuum



# Contact Information

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WEB

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