



# TEXAS STATEWIDE COMMUNICATION INTEROPERABILITY PLAN



July 13, 2023

Office of the Texas SWIC and the  
Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition

Developed with support from the  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

*THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Letter from the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator .....</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Introduction.....</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| Interoperability and Emergency Communications Overview.....         | 3         |
| <b>Vision and Mission.....</b>                                      | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Governance and Leadership.....</b>                               | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Planning and Procedures.....</b>                                 | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Training, Exercises, and Evaluation .....</b>                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Communications Coordination .....</b>                            | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Technology and Infrastructure .....</b>                          | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Cybersecurity.....</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Implementation Plan .....</b>                                    | <b>8</b>  |
| Governance and Leadership .....                                     | 8         |
| Planning and Procedures .....                                       | 11        |
| Training, Exercises, and Evaluation .....                           | 12        |
| Communications Coordination.....                                    | 13        |
| Technology and Infrastructure .....                                 | 14        |
| Cybersecurity.....  | 15        |
| <b>Appendix A: State Markers .....</b>                              | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Appendix B: Acronyms .....</b>                                   | <b>17</b> |

# LETTER FROM THE STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR

Greetings,

As the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) for Texas, I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Texas Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The SCIP represents the State's continued commitment to improving emergency communications interoperability and supporting the public safety practitioners throughout the State. In addition, this update meets the requirement of the current U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant guidelines.

Representatives from the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) collaborated to update the SCIP with actionable and measurable goals and objectives that have champions identified to ensure completion. These goals and objectives focus on Governance, Technology and Cybersecurity, and Funding. They are designed to support our State in planning for emerging technologies and navigating the ever-changing emergency communications landscape. They also incorporate the National Council of SWICs (NCSWIC) State Interoperability Markers which describe Texas level of interoperability maturity by measuring progress against 25 markers.

As we continue to enhance interoperability, we must remain dedicated to improving our ability to communicate among disciplines and across jurisdictional boundaries. With help from public safety practitioners statewide, we will work to achieve the goals set forth in the SCIP and become a nationwide model for statewide interoperability.

Sincerely,



---

Karla Jurrens  
Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator  
Texas Department of Public Safety

# INTRODUCTION



The SCIP is a one-to-three-year strategic planning document that contains the following components:

- **Introduction** – Provides the context necessary to understand what the SCIP is and how it was developed. It also provides an overview of the current emergency communications landscape.
- **Vision and Mission** – Articulates Texas’ vision and mission for improving emergency and public safety communications interoperability over the next one-to-three-years.
- **Implementation Plan** – Describes Texas’ plan to implement, maintain, and update the SCIP to enable continued evolution of and progress toward the State’s interoperability goals.

The Emergency Communications Ecosystem consists of many inter-related components and functions, including communications for incident response operations, notifications and alerts and warnings, requests for assistance and reporting, and public information exchange. The primary functions are depicted in the 2019 NECP.<sup>1</sup>

The Interoperability Continuum, developed by the Department of Homeland Security’s SAFECOM program and shown in Figure 1, serves as a framework to address challenges and continue improving operable/interoperable and public safety communications.<sup>2</sup> It is designed to assist public

---

<sup>1</sup> [2019 National Emergency Communications Plan](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Interoperability Continuum Brochure](#)

safety agencies and policy makers with planning and implementing interoperability solutions for communications across technologies.

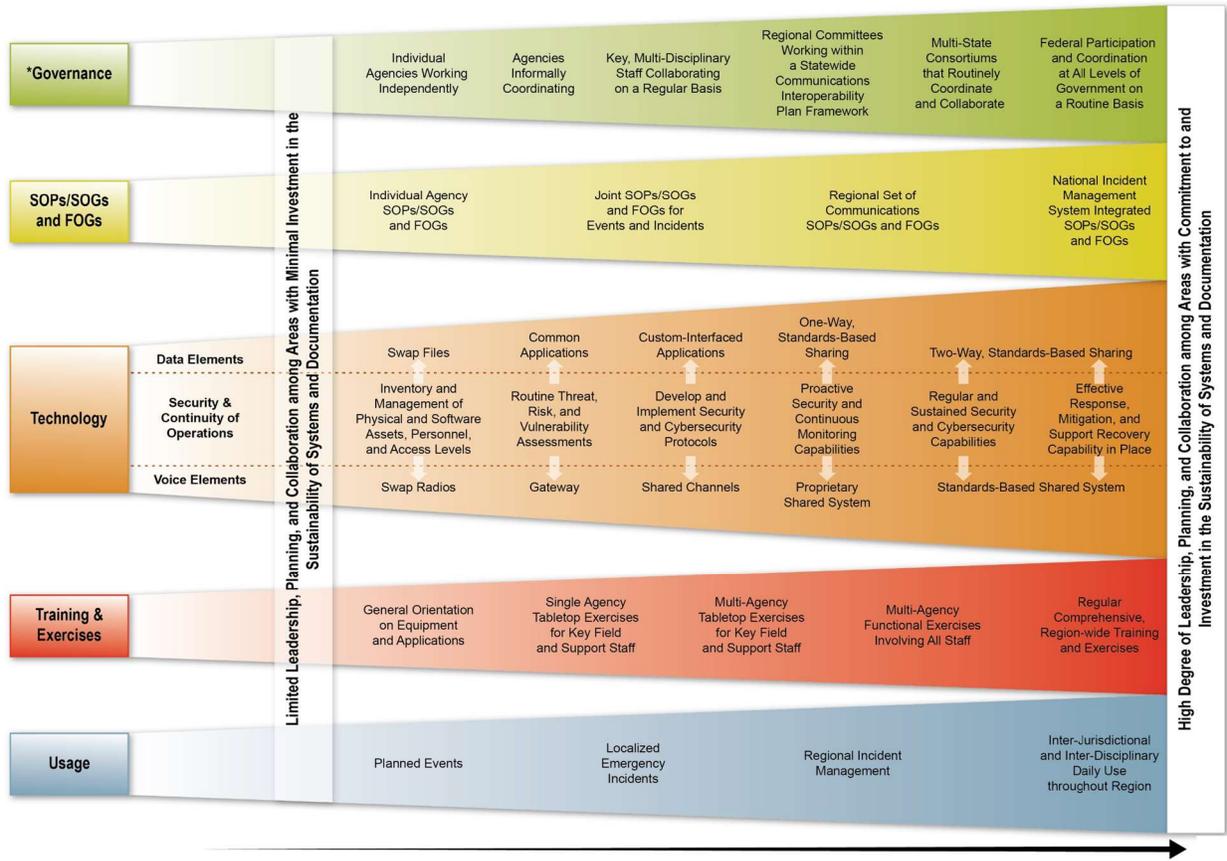


Figure 1: Interoperability Continuum

## Interoperability and Emergency Communications Overview

Interoperability is the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to communicate across jurisdictions, disciplines, and levels of government as needed and as authorized. Reliable, timely communications among public safety responders and between public safety agencies and citizens is critical to effectively carry out public safety missions, and in many cases, saving lives.

Traditional voice capabilities, such as land mobile radio (LMR) and landline 9-1-1 services have long been and continue to be critical tools for communications. However, the advancement of internet protocol-based technologies in public safety has increased the type and amount of information responders receive, the tools they communicate with, and complexity of new and interdependent systems. Emerging technologies increase the need for coordination across public safety disciplines, communications functions, and levels of government to ensure emergency communications capabilities are interoperable, reliable, and secure.

An example of this evolution is the transition of public-safety answering points (PSAPs) to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) technology that will enhance sharing of critical information in real-time using multimedia—such as pictures, video, and text — among citizens, PSAP operators, dispatch, and first responders. While potential benefits of NG9-1-1 are tremendous, implementation

challenges remain. Necessary tasks to fully realize these benefits include interfacing disparate systems, developing training and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and ensuring information security.

## VISION AND MISSION

This section describes Texas' vision and mission for improving emergency and public safety communications interoperability:

### **Vision:**

*All public safety and incident response entities in Texas will implement and utilize standards-based sustainable wireless interoperable voice and data communications.*

### **Mission:**

*Through the unified voice and collaborative efforts of the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Office, promote standards-based voice and data communications interoperability throughout Texas.*

## GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

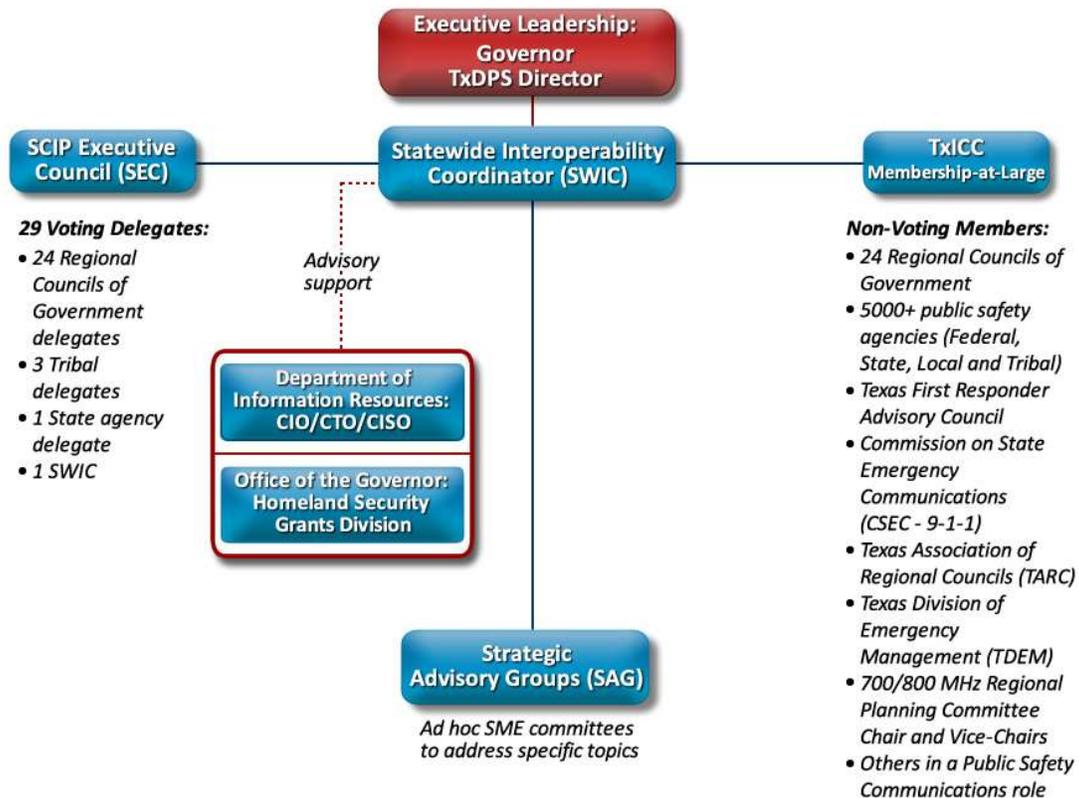
**Goal: All public safety and incident response entities in Texas will have access to effective and sustainable wireless interoperable voice and data communications.**

The Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) is the current governance body in place for emergency communications in the State of Texas and is housed in the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The TxICC is comprised of public safety communications representatives from public safety and incident response entities across the state and maintains chartered responsibility of the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The TxICC is a voluntary organization of federal, state, local, tribal, and non-profit entities, including traditional emergency communications disciplines as well as public utilities, critical infrastructure/key resources providers, and transportation agencies. The TxICC owns and manages the SCIP as a strategic planning tool to help Texas public safety agencies prioritize resources, strengthen governance, identify future investments, and address interoperability gaps.

The TxICC established the SCIP Executive Council (SEC) to serve as the official voting entity of the TxICC. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) chairs both the SEC and the TxICC and oversees the implementation of all SCIP goals and initiatives. The SWIC is supported by ad-hoc Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs), which advise the SWIC on key issues such as public safety broadband, developing a system of systems, improving training and exercises, and updating the Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan. The SWIC provides oversight and leadership to the TxICC SAGs, as they address key issues such as the Texas Public Safety Broadband Program, training and exercises, and funding.

Texas' governance structure is depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Texas' Governance Structure



## PLANNING AND PROCEDURES

**Goal:** Develop and update comprehensive emergency communications plans, procedures, and tools that address the evolution of risks, capabilities, and technologies.

## TRAINING, EXERCISES, AND EVALUATION

**Goal:** Develop and deliver training curriculum, exercise templates, and evaluation methods that target gaps in all emergency communications technologies.

## COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATION

**Goal:** Provide public safety and incident response agencies with best practices to address interoperability opportunities and challenges posed by technology advancements related to incident response.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal: Identify funding sources available to local, regional, Tribal, and State agencies for communications equipment, training, and maintenance of systems.**

### *Land Mobile Radio*

Texas supports adoption of P25 Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems and where feasible sharing infrastructure and resources by joining and sharing network core services with existing Regional Public Safety Radio Systems. Grant funding will only be approved to purchase P25 voice radio equipment, additionally, if encryption is purchased, it must be AES-256.

### *Broadband*

Texas continues to support the buildout and adoption at the agency level for the implementation of FirstNet, the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) as well as the adoption of mobile broadband applications that enable interoperable data and information sharing between agencies.

In the absence of standards to guide emergency communications agencies with the selection and implementation of applications that can maintain interoperability for situational awareness, TxDPS has adopted two technologies that are available at no cost for basic subscriptions.

- 1) Team Awareness Kit (TAK). DPS has established a server that agencies can join. Team Awareness Kit provides situational awareness, puts 'dots-on-a-map' of locations for personnel, aircraft, UAS and deployable equipment. TAK is used to coordinate teams and operations involving multiple jurisdictions.
- 2) Bridge4PublicSafety (Bridge4PS). Bridge4PS is available to download from the website: <https://www.bridge4ps.com/>. Bridge4PS is a public safety communications platform that provides messaging and collaboration features tailored to the unique requirements of first responders. Bridge4PS complies with the *Public Safety Messaging – Position Paper* the TxICC adopted in July 2019.

### *9-1-1/Next Generation 9-1-1*

The Texas 9-1-1 program is overseen by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), Emergency Communications Districts as well as Municipal Emergency Communications Districts.<sup>3</sup> Texas operates 495 Primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).<sup>4</sup> In 2020, approximately 22.2 million 9-1-1 calls were received by Texas PSAPs, of which almost 75 percent were made from wireless devices.<sup>5</sup> The Texas Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) environment is comprised of interconnected and interoperable Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) systems of local, regional, and other emergency services networks (ESInets). The CSEC, with the assistance of its Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC), coordinates the identification and development of policies in support of interconnectivity and interoperability; and is used for communications between and among public safety and 9-1-1 entities that will be part of the Texas Next Generation Emergency Communications System. As NG9-1-1 is implemented by the Regional

---

<sup>3</sup> [Committee on State Emergency Communications](#)

<sup>4</sup> [FCC Thirteenth Annual Fee Report State Filings](#)

<sup>5</sup> [FCC 9-1-1 Annual Report, 2020](#)

Planning Commissions (RPCs) and Emergency Communications Districts, CSEC and its ECAC will work to ensure that appropriate policies are adopted in the *Strategic Plan for Statewide 9-1-1 Service and Next Generation 9-1-1 Master Plans*. The 9-1-1 community establishes, trains, and deploys the Telecommunication Emergency Response Teams (TERT) in Texas to support PSAPs in impacted areas.

### *Alerts and Warnings*

Alerts and Warnings in Texas are supported by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Alerts and Warnings program including the Integrated Public Alerts and Warnings System (IPAWS).

State agencies and other organizations in the State Operations Center (SOC) constantly monitor developing and ongoing situations within Texas.<sup>6</sup> These organizations have created the Texas Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan, a plan for alerting the public about an imminent risk to life and property that details systems for governmental agencies and media to cooperate in disseminating this information. The Texas Emergency Communications Committee, per the President of the United States, the Federal Communications Committee, and DHS, has adopted the Texas EAS Plan.

National emergency messages are disseminated across the state through a web (also called a “daisy chain”) emanating over the air from Texas’ four national PEP stations, KTRH Houston, WBAP Dallas-Fort Worth, KLBJ Austin, and KROD El Paso. As a secondary EAS distribution method Texas uses the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) – the Internet-based system for communicating alerts developed and operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## **CYBERSECURITY**

**Goal: Offer outreach support to provide updates, best practices, and monitoring of industry developments, and direction to current resources.**

The Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (OCISO) within the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) provides information security program guidance to the Texas public sector. Led by the State of Texas Chief Information Security Officer the team works to set state information security policies and standards, publish guidance on best practices, improve incident response preparedness, monitor, and analyze incidents, coordinate security services, and promote information sharing throughout the public sector cybersecurity community.<sup>7</sup> Information is distributed through the Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (TX-ISAO).

---

<sup>6</sup> [State Emergency Operations Center](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Office of the State Chief Information Security Officer \(OCISO\)](#)

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Each goal and its associated objectives have a timeline with a target completion date, and one or multiple owners that will be responsible for overseeing and coordinating its completion. Accomplishing goals and objectives will require the support and cooperation from numerous individuals, groups, or agencies, and will be added as formal agenda items for review during regular governance body meetings. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) has a catalog<sup>8</sup> of technical assistance (TA) available to assist with the implementation of the SCIP. TA requests are to be coordinated through the SWIC.

Texas’ implementation plan is shown in the table below.

### Governance and Leadership

| Initiatives   | Owners       | Date                          | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP Alignment |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1.1 Maintain the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Office and the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) by maintaining the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), inclusive stakeholder engagements, and reviewing governance documents | SWIC         | Ongoing in odd numbered years | Tactical (T)           | SCIP evaluated biannually, TxICC charter evaluated every four years | 1.1            |
| 1.2 Maintain Regional Interoperable Communications Committees (RICCs) in all 24 Council of Governments (COGs) including the three Tribes and conduct meetings annually at a minimum   | COGs, Tribes | Ongoing                       | Strategic (S)          | Verified through Focus Group (FG) report                            | 1.2            |

<sup>8</sup> [Emergency Communications Technical Assistance Planning Guide](#)

| Initiatives   | Owners   | Date              | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1.3 Review and revise local and tribal points of contact lists including emergency communications stakeholders, SCIP Executive Committee (SEC) delegates, radio programmers, ID plan contacts, cyber security stakeholders, 9-1-1 stakeholders, and Communications Unit contacts, and any new subject matter experts identified in the annual FG Report | COGs, Tribes, SWIC   | January, annually | T                      | Updates contact lists submitted to TXSWIC@dps.texas.gov with annual FG report | 1.2               |
| 1.4 Educate state, local, tribal, and regional decision makers, and elected officials on the importance of all aspects of interoperable communications and the need to fund and sustain systems   | SWIC, COGs, Tribes, Texas Association of Regional Councils | January, annually | S                      | Verified through FG reports   | 1.2               |
| 1.5 Locally or regionally hold at least one information exchange/demonstration session with stakeholders and the public (possibly in conjunction with an existing regional public event) to share agency mission, initiatives, deployable assets, and any other available resources that could be used for regional or statewide response               | COGs, Tribes   | January, annually | T                      | Verified through FG report  | 1.3               |
| 1.6 Develop legislative report of statewide progress towards interoperability and SCIP initiatives based on RICG Focus Group Reports  | SWIC   | June, annually    | T                      | Completed report  | 1.3               |

| Initiatives   | Owners   | Date          | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1.7 Maintain the Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP), eTXFOG and affiliated Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and post to a shared location | TSICP Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), SWIC   | Ongoing       | T                      | Updated TSICP, as required; eTXFOG available on app stores; list of MOU signees posted on Department of Public Safety (DPS) website               | 1.3               |
| 1.8 Inform stakeholders on new technology and cybersecurity updates (including urgent notices as required)  | SWIC   | Ongoing       | T                      | TxICC Newsletters and notices   | 1.3               |
| 1.9 SWIC Office represents the State of Texas at the Federal level and at industry conferences  | SWIC   | Ongoing       | S                      | SWIC Office attend per year:<br>2 NCSWIC meetings<br>4 NCSWIC/SAFECOM/Federal committee meetings (virtual or in-person)<br>2 Industry Conferences | 1.3               |
| 1.10 Increase public safety Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) GETS/Wireless Priority Service (WPS) adoption rate by 2%                   | SWIC, TDEM, COGs/Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), Emergency Support Function (ESF) partners | February 2025 | T                      | Verified in Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS) reporting                          | 1.3               |

## Planning and Procedures

| Initiatives  | Owners             | Date  | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric   | NECP<br>Alignment |
|--|--------------------|---|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 2.1 Engage RICC to complete annual Focus Group and Interoperability Level reports, using surveys, webinars, or meetings  | COGs, Tribes, SWIC | January, annually                           | S                      | >83% completed FG and Interoperability Level surveys   | 2.1               |
| 2.2 Identify and prioritize needs and plans for interoperability for each of the COGs and Tribes. Review and Update Regional SOPs as needed. Determine if tools or best practices need to be developed   | COGs, Tribes, SWIC | In-person COG/regional workshop, biannually | S                      | >83% of the total of COGs and tribes have a biannual meeting, Review or Update Regional SOPs   | 2.1               |
| 2.3 Review, update, and maintain resources in common collaboration platforms   | SWIC               | Ongoing maintenance                         | S                      | Annual review of information and files on shared sites to ensure information is up to date (Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool [CASM], Homeland Security Information Network [HSIN], DPS website) | 2.1               |
| 2.4 COGs engage appropriate stakeholders to update the technology capabilities and migration sections of Regional Interoperable Communication Plans (RICPs), in addition to any other RICP sections or information requiring updates as needed outside Technical Assistance (TA) | COGs, Tribes       | Ongoing, based on TA schedule               | S                      | Updated RICP reports, verified through FG report   | 2.2               |
| 2.5 Explore option to publish SWIC office calendar   | SWIC               | October 2024                                | T                      | Published calendar   | 2.2               |

## Training, Exercises, and Evaluation

| Initiatives   | Owners                     | Date                                  | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric   | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 3.1 Promote awareness and participation for the basic interoperable radio training curriculum available online  | SWIC                       | Q1 CY 2023                            | S                      | Training available online  | 3.1               |
| 3.2 Engage accrediting organizations as appropriate to adopt interoperable radio communications curriculum as part of continuing education programs   | SWIC                       | Q1 CY 2024                            | T                      | Compile list of and contact accrediting organizations and points of contact (POCs)                   | 3.1               |
| 3.3 Agencies conduct regular drills to practice use of interoperability channels/talk groups; examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular rollcalls on interoperability channels/talk groups</li> <li>Parking lot drill (TXSWIC webpage)</li> <li>Regular communications drill integrated with annual required training</li> </ul> | SWIC, COGs, local entities | Ongoing                               | T                      | Complete communications drills preferably monthly, annually at a minimum, verified through FG report | 3.1               |
| 3.4 Conduct, participate and promote multi-agency exercises and develop communications-focused after-action reports (AARs)  | COGs                       | January, biannually (report annually) | T                      | All COGs conduct multi-agency exercise every two years, verified through FG report                   | 3.1               |
| 3.5 Identify the effectiveness and use of Regional Standard Operating Procedures (RSOPs) during exercises or real-world events, in compliance with the National Incident Management (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS)  | COGs, Tribe                | Ongoing                               | S                      | All COGs and tribes conduct multi-agency exercise every two years, verified through FG report        | 3.1               |

| Initiatives   | Owners             | Date                           | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 3.6 Identify a Communications Unit single POC for each COG and Tribe, POCs will maintain the list of Communications Unit personnel in the CASM for their area | COGs, Tribes, SWIC | January, quarterly maintenance | T                      | Data uploaded and maintained in the CASM database, verified through FG report | 3.3               |

### Communications Coordination

| Initiatives   | Owners  | Date  | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|---|---|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 4.1 Monitor and share industry and government advancements and best practices in communications during the annual TxICC Conference                        | SWIC, COGs, Tribes  | Quarter Four (Q4) Calendar Year (CY) 2023, annually | T                      | At least one SWIC presentation or message to TxICC annually, RICCs share with local stakeholders  | 4.2               |
| 4.2 Regularly review and update local, tribal, and regional asset inventories in the CASM database-review relevancy and incentives                        | SWIC, COGs, and Tribes  | Ongoing   | T                      | Verified through FG reports   | 4.2               |
| 4.3 Coordinate with emergency alerts and warnings and Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) organizations to provide updates and best practices to stakeholders | SWIC, Commission on State Emergency Communication, 9-1-1 Districts statewide, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) | Ongoing   | T                      | NG9-1-1 and Alerts & Warnings updates provided to stakeholders annually at minimum, generally at TxICC annual conference.<br><br>SWIC Office, CSEC Executive Director and TDEM Alerts and Warning Unit Chief meet quarterly | 4.2, 4.3          |
| 4.4 Update RSOPs as needed; distribute to all local, tribal, and mutual aid responder agencies in the region  | COGs, Tribes  | January, biannually                                 | T                      | Updated RSOPs uploaded to HSIN, verified through FG report  | 4.2               |

| Initiatives   | Owners                   | Date    | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric                                       | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|--------------------------|---------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 4.5 Share resources and best practices among federal, state, tribal, regional, and local entities that highlight interoperability improvements and cost savings | COGs, Tribes, SWIC       | Ongoing | S                      | Conduct annual system managers meeting       | 4.2               |
| 4.6 Develop a plan to increase enrollment in Priority Telecommunications Services (e.g., GETS, WPS, TSP)  | SWIC, COGs, Tribes, TDEM | CY 2025 | T                      | Increase enrollment by 2% over 2-year period | 4.3               |

## Technology and Infrastructure

| Initiatives   | Owners   | Date                | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|--|---------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 5.1 Transition public safety voice radio systems to comply with Project 25 (P25) standards for statewide interoperability   | COGs, Tribes, SWIC                                 | Ongoing             | T                      | Verified through technology interoperability levels identified annually by counties and Tribes through the level of interoperability survey | 5.2               |
| 5.2 Program all public safety and incident response subscriber radios with TSICP-designated interoperability channels and applicable interoperability talk groups | COGs, Tribes, system managers, state agencies      | Ongoing             | S                      | Verified through FG reports   | 5.2               |
| 5.3 Verify public safety agencies have executed the TSICP MOU   | COGs, Tribes, local entities, SWIC, state agencies | Ongoing, biannually | T                      | Verified during grant process with SWIC approval, verified through FG reports   | 5.2               |
| 5.4 Enforce standards to regulate grant funding distribution  | SWIC in collaboration with Office of the Governor  | Ongoing             | T                      | Verified during grant process with SWIC approval  | 5.3               |
| 5.5 Evaluate and implement the Team Awareness Kit (TAK)   | DPS, TDEM, state agencies, local entities          | Q1 CY 2024          | T                      | Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports  | 5.3               |

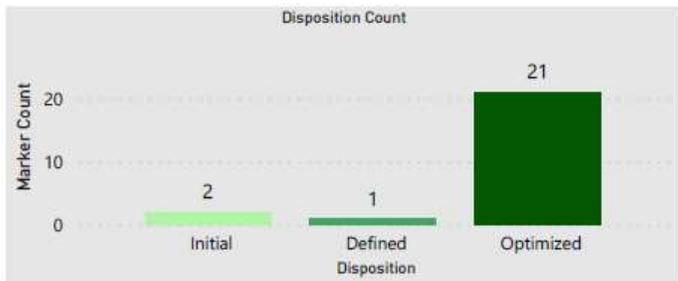
| Initiatives                                     | Owners                                    | Date       | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric   | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|---|------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 5.6 Evaluate and implement Bridge4Public Safety | DPS, TDEM, state agencies, local entities | Q1 CY 2024 | T                      | Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports | 5.3               |

## Cybersecurity

| Initiatives   | Owners                    | Date                     | Tactical/<br>Strategic | Metric  | NECP<br>Alignment |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 6.1 Promote a cybersecurity awareness month webinar series  | SWIC                      | October, annually        | T                      | Completion of webinar, can be in conjunction with TxICC Conference or CISA Cyber Awareness Month            | 6.1               |
| 6.2 Encourage agencies to conduct cybersecurity threat assessments, maturity assessments, or vulnerability assessments utilizing best practice guidance                             | SWIC, DIR, local entities | Ongoing                  | T                      | Provide best practice documents via TxICC newsletters or presentations/webinars, verified through FG report | 6.1               |
| 6.3 Actively share best practices, standards, and frameworks for cybersecurity from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and CISA on common collaboration platform | SWIC                      | Ongoing, monthly uploads | S                      | Best practices and standards uploaded to platform, share Texas DPS Cyber Newsletter                         | 6.2               |
| 6.4 Create working group to identify common cybersecurity collaboration platform (HSIN, WebEOC, CASM, etc.)   | SWIC, TxICC               | 2024 TxICC Conference    | T                      | Select platform   | 6.3               |
| 6.5 Implement common collaboration platform   | SWIC, TxICC               | February 2025            | T                      | Go-live of platform   | 6.3               |

## APPENDIX A: STATE MARKERS

In 2019, CISA supported States and Territories in establishing an initial picture of interoperability nationwide by measuring progress against 25 markers. These markers describe a State or Territory's level of interoperability maturity. Below is Texas' assessment of their progress against the markers.



**SWIC**

Name: Karla Jurrens | Email: [karla.jurrens@dps.texas.gov](mailto:karla.jurrens@dps.texas.gov)

Average State/Territory Marker Score:

# 2.79

| Marker | Title   | Marker Score | National AVG |
|--------|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1      | State-level governing body established                              | 3            | 2.46         |
| 2      | SIGB/SIEC participation   | 3            | 2.59         |
| 3      | SWIC established  | 3            | 2.45         |
| 4      | SWIC Duty Percentage  | 3            | 2.25         |
| 5      | SCIP refresh  | 3            | 2.13         |
| 6      | SCIP strategic goal percentage                                      | 3            | 2.09         |
| 7      | Integrated emergency communication grant coordination               | 3            | 2.57         |
| 8      | Communications Unit Process   | 3            | 2.38         |
| 9      | Interagency communication   | 3            | 2.05         |
| 10     | TICP (or equivalent) developed                                      | 2            | 1.71         |
| 11     | Field Operations Guides (FOGs) developed                            | 3            | 2.05         |
| 12     | Alerts & Warnings   | 1            | 1.95         |
| 13     | Radio programming   | 3            | 2.50         |
| 14     | Cybersecurity Assessment Awareness                                  | 3            | 1.52         |
| 15     | NG911 implementation  | 3            | 1.91         |
| 16     | Data operability / interoperability                                 | 3            | 1.91         |
| 18     | Communications Exercise objectives                                  | 3            | 2.13         |
| 19     | Trained Communications Unit responders                              | 3            | 2.20         |
| 20     | Communications Usage Best Practices/Lessons Learned                 | 3            | 2.00         |
| 21     | WPS subscription  | 1            | 1.27         |
| 22     | Outreach  | 3            | 2.32         |
| 23     | Sustainment assessment  | 3            | 2.38         |
| 24     | Risk identification   | 3            | 1.89         |
| 25     | Cross Border / Interstate (State to State) Emergency Communications | 3            | 1.96         |

**Initial (1) | Defined (2) | Optimized (3)**

*Click the National AVG button to see the National average for each marker*

National AVG

*Click the back arrow to return to the original view*

## APPENDIX B: ACRONYMS

| Acronym      | Definition  |
|--------------|---|
| AAR          | After-Action Report                                       |
| AUXCOMM/AUXC | Auxiliary Emergency Communications                        |
| A&W          | Alerts and Warnings                                       |
| Bridge4PS    | Bridge 4 Public Safety                                    |
| CASM         | Communication Assets Survey and Mapping                   |
| CISA         | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency          |
| COG          | Council of Government                                     |
| COML         | Communications Unit Leader                                |
| COMT         | Communications Unit Technician                            |
| COOP         | Continuity of Operations Plan                             |
| CSEC         | Commission on State Emergency Communications              |
| CY           | Calendar Year   |
| DIR          | Department of Information Resources                       |
| DHS          | Department of Homeland Security                           |
| DPS          | Department of Public Safety                               |
| EAS          | Emergency Alert System                                    |
| ECAC         | Emergency Communications Advisory Committee               |
| ECD          | Emergency Communications Division                         |
| ESF          | Emergency Support Function                                |
| ESInet       | Emergency Services Internal Protocol Network              |
| FEMA         | Federal Emergency Management Agency                       |
| FG           | Focus Group   |
| FOG          | Field Operations Guide                                    |
| GETS         | Government Emergency Telecommunications Service           |
| GIS          | Geospatial Information System                             |
| HSIN         | Homeland Security Information Network                     |
| ICS          | Incident Command System                                   |
| ICTAP        | Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program |
| INCM         | Incident Communications Center Manager                    |
| INTD         | Incident Tactical Dispatcher                              |
| IP           | Internet Protocol   |
| IPAWS        | Integrated Public Alert and Warning System                |
| ITSL         | Information Technology Service Unit Leader                |
| LMR          | Land Mobile Radio   |
| LTE          | Long-Term Evolution                                       |
| MHz          | Megahertz   |

| Acronym | Definition   |
|---------|--|
| MOU     | Memorandum of Understanding                                    |
| NCSWIC  | National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators    |
| NECP    | National Emergency Communications Plan                         |
| NG9-1-1 | Next Generation 9-1-1  |
| OCISO   | Office of the Chief Information Security Officer               |
| POC     | Point of Contact   |
| PSAP    | Public Safety Answering Point                                  |
| PTS     | Priority Telecommunications Service                            |
| P25     | Project 25   |
| RADO    | Radio Operator   |
| RICC    | Regional Interoperable Communications Committee                |
| RICP    | Regional Interoperable Communication Plan                      |
| RPC     | Regional Planning Commission                                   |
| RSOP    | Regional Standard Operating Procedure                          |
| SAG     | Strategic Advisory Group                                       |
| SCIP    | Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan                  |
| SEC     | Statewide Interoperable Communication Plan Executive Committee |
| SOC     | State Operations Center  |
| SOP     | Standard Operating Procedure                                   |
| SWIC    | Statewide Interoperability Coordinator                         |
| TA      | Technical Assistance   |
| TAK     | Team Awareness Kit   |
| TDEM    | Texas Division of Emergency Management                         |
| TERT    | Telecommunications Emergency Response Team                     |
| TICP    | Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan                     |
| TSICP   | Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan                  |
| TxICC   | Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition                   |
| TX-ISAO | Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Organization            |
| WPS     | Wireless Priority Service                                      |