

**Methodology for the Reporting Process of NECP Goals
Demonstrating Response-Level Emergency Communications &
Capabilities Assessments
Throughout the Five UASIs and
24 Councils of Governments**

“Interoperability is not solely a technology problem that can be solved with the right equipment or the “right” communications system. Interoperability is a multi-dimensional issue” (SAFECOMprogram.gov)

***The Texas Statewide Interoperable Communications
Coordinator, Mike Simpson, must report and certify the
Demonstrations and Capabilities Assessments in the
SCIP Implementation Report***

Funding: FY2010 IECGP funds are prioritized for regional demonstration events.

Capabilities Assessments – Goals 1 & 2

1. UASI communications groups will complete a UASI-wide Capabilities Assessment (data sheet and instructions to be provided).
2. Regional communications groups will complete a county-wide capabilities assessment for each county (data sheets and instructions to be provided). Note: some county's capabilities may be minimal due to low population density or geographical landscape, but are adequate for their emergency response requirements. A total of 254 assessments will be completed statewide. *(A UASI County may submit their Goal 1 assessment.)*
3. *UASIs and regions are also to provide a Capabilities Assessment Narrative (no more than 400 characters) that justifies the current stage of capability development within their area. This written justification will afford the opportunity to affirm that their stages of capability development are appropriate given the funding received and the requirements and needs of their areas.*
4. A designated SWIC COML evaluator will meet with the UASIs / Regions to review and provide input to the Capabilities Assessment and Narrative. The SWIC COML evaluator and the UASIs / Regions must be in agreement on the Assessment and Narrative prior to submittal.
 - a. The UASIs must submit their Capabilities Assessments and Narratives to the SWIC office no later than September 10, 2010.
 - b. The Regions must submit their Capabilities Assessments and Narratives to the SWIC office no later than May 1, 2011.

Demonstrations – Goal 2: Texas will take a Regional Approach for demonstrating Goal 2 response-level emergency communications.

Before planning and scheduling an event, review AARs on actual incidents from September 2008 until the present. Evaluate the size of the incidents, counties, jurisdictions and agencies that responded and the incident command procedures, and then decide if the region should use an actual incident, a planned event, or plan and execute an exercise.

5. Regions will create a Working Group that will consist of emergency responders from state, local, and possibly, federal public safety agencies within the region to plan, schedule and participate in the demonstration.

6. The planned event or exercise proposed for the demonstration:
 - a. Must be approved in advance by the SWIC. Request for approvals must be submitted 30 days prior to the event.
 - b. Must include a unified command center in compliance with NIMS.
 - c. Must not take place in an area identified as lacking communications capabilities.
 - d. Must include participants from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines, including law enforcement, fire and EMS.
 - e. Must include participants from a minimum of two state agencies, e.g. TFS, TP&W, TDCJ, TDEM and TxDOT.
 - f. Must include a SWIC COML representative as an evaluator.
7. The Regional SOP (Volume II of the RICP) must be exercised during the event.
8. The Incident Commander must have a hard copy of the RSOP and the TSICP.
9. Technical connectivity and capabilities of regional communications assets recorded in the RSOP must be validated, including: Incident Command to EOC, gateways, and mobile communications vehicles and/or trailers.
10. The Working Group will develop an After-Action Report that identifies strengths and weaknesses and an Improvement Plan.
11. The Working Group will complete a "Response-Level Emergency Communications Evaluation Report" (to be provided).
12. Response-Level Emergency Communications Evaluation Report will include:
 - g. Background Information
 - h. Incident Scope & Scale
 - i. Incident Management
 - j. Independent Validation and Verification
 - k. Response-Level Emergency Communications
 - l. Common Policies & Procedures
 - m. Quality & Continuity
 - n. Determining the Level of Demonstration
13. A designated SWIC COML evaluator will meet with the Regions to review and provide input to the Response-Level Emergency Communications Evaluation Report, AAR and Improvement Plan. The SWIC COML evaluator and the Regions must be in agreement on the Response-Level Emergency Communications Evaluation Report, AAR and Improvement Plan prior to submittal.
14. The Regions must submit their Response-Level Emergency Communications Evaluation Report, AAR and Improvement Plan to the SWIC office no later than May 1, 2011.

Reporting to OEC

15. The SWIC, and/or designated appointee, will analyze the results of all NECP Goal documentation and meet with individual regions and agencies as needed to further develop interoperability improvement plans and procedures.
16. The results of the NECP Goal 2 Demonstrations and Goals 1 & 2 Capabilities Assessments will be submitted to the OEC in the appropriate SCIP Implementation Report.

Demonstration Event Note: If a large county manages the demonstration where multiple counties participate, sparsely populated rural counties may participate and may use the same results. In these instances it is required that each county must have at least one agency present and all counties must agree to receive the same score.

Motion: Accept the "Methodology for the Reporting Process of NECP Goals Demonstrating Response-Level Emergency Communications & Capabilities Assessments Throughout the Five UASIs and 24 Councils of Governments" as presented.