

**Department of Homeland Security
Office of Emergency Communications**



**Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)
Implementation Workshop – Texas**

Summary Report

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INTRODUCTION

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. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) continues to support States and territories in the implementation of their SCIP by providing annual SCIP Implementation Workshops. These participatory and hands-on workshops bring together Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial representatives to identify and address communications interoperability gaps to facilitate successful implementation of the SCIP.

Texas conducted its SCIP Implementation Workshop on March 6, 2012, with a focus on Strategic Planning. The Strategic Planning Workshop allows participants to streamline the SCIP and integrate planning best practices and lessons learned. Additionally, it provides participants with the opportunity to begin work on developing a comprehensive business case. This report provides a summary of the one day Workshop and is organized into the following Sections—

- Workshop Kick-Off
- Texas Update Presentations
- OEC Overview Presentation
- NECP Goal 2 Results
- Strategic Planning Module
- Appendix A: Acronyms
- Appendix B: Completed SCIP Initiatives
- Appendix C: Current SCIP Initiatives
- Appendix D: Workshop Materials
- Appendix E: Workshop Participant List

WORKSHOP KICK-OFF

Ms. Karen Duke, Deputy Administrator, Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), opened the Workshop and welcomed participants. She thanked participants for attending, and introduced the Workshop facilitator, Mr. Michael Burney (OEC Support).

PURPOSE & OUTCOMES

Mr. Burney asked participants to introduce themselves, their affiliation, and what brought them to the Workshop. Popular responses included looking for funding, gathering information about Texas' interoperability activities, and to ensure alignment with the SCIP. Mr. Burney articulated the Workshop purpose, which was to streamline and prioritize SCIP initiatives, identify gaps, and develop a business case to communicate prioritized initiatives to the Texas Legislature and local leaders. Outcomes for the day included prioritized SCIP initiatives streamlined for the ongoing SCIP rewrite, drafting business case language, and action plans focused on priority initiatives. Mr. Burney emphasized the importance of formulating an approach to help stakeholders, relevant associations, and political bodies carry priorities forward from the local perspective. He then reviewed the agenda for the day, and transitioned to Mr. Joe Jarrett, TxDPS, for a presentation on the narrowbanding deadline.

TEXAS NARROWBAND UPDATE

Mr. Jarrett reminded the group of the impending narrowbanding deadline of January 2013, and reviewed the conditions for a waiver. He noted there were presently no waivers from Texas, but other successful waiver jurisdictions had presented multi-year plans, proven funding, and coordination with neighboring systems. Within 90 days of the release for the order, the licensee must file a letter confirming consent to the terms and conditions. Petitioners must also file a list of relinquished frequencies. Mr. Jarrett also stated that the waiver can be rescinded if it is no longer in the public interest.

Chief David Abernathy, Texas Forest Service, presented an overview of how the narrowbanding mandate impacts Texas. While Texas currently uses some wideband interoperable channels, narrowband channels are already in place. He explained the wideband channels will still be available until December 31, 2012, and all Texas State agencies have agreed to collectively migrate their wideband operable and interoperable channels to narrowband on June 1, 2012 to prepare for the deadline and to ensure all radios are programmed correctly. The Texas Forest Service developed a training course, *Large Fire Strategies and Management*, including education on interoperability and narrowbanding.

WILD FIRES & INTEROPERABILITY

Chief Abernathy presented the importance of interoperability in fire service. The previous year was the driest and hottest on record, which led to an extreme wild fire season across all terrain throughout the State. The Fire Service uses interoperability solutions on a day to day basis, though many local firefighters are volunteer firefighters, and are struggling to maintain their operability. This presentation and the Texas Narrowband Update presentation can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/>.

OEC UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Ken Bradley, OEC, and Mr. Ken Born, OEC Regional Coordinator (RC), delivered an update on OEC activities. OEC was established in 2007 to serve as the central coordination point between Federal, State, local, tribal and territorial emergency communications stakeholders and government officials to address challenges and develop solutions to improve operability, interoperability and continuity of communications. Mr. Bradley showed the Interoperability Continuum, which demonstrates the complexity of achieving interoperability and the importance of governance, standard operating procedures (SOPs), technology, training and exercise, and usage. The Continuum served as a framework for the SCIPs and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). OEC continues to use the Continuum to measure capabilities and explain the ongoing challenges of emergency communications.

The NECP is a National plan, developed in partnership with public safety stakeholders; it sets milestones and objectives, and contains three performance-based goals. Released in 2008, it is the first national strategic plan for emergency communications that establishes a vision for all levels of government. NECP Goal 1 focused on Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) regions,

and Goal 2 focused on counties and county-equivalents. NECP Goal 3 will be rewritten, and Mr. Bradley invited participants to contact him if they are interested in serving on the Working Group.

Mr. Born provided an overview of the OEC Technical Assistance (TA) program. The TA program works with stakeholders onsite and focuses on addressing the various technical needs of State and local entities. Since its inception, OEC has assisted with more than 700 technical assistance engagements throughout the 56 States and territories. OEC is also working on initiatives for 2012 to better serve its stakeholders. In 2012, OEC is enhancing its training, technical assistance, and guidance documents to support new challenges for stakeholders. OEC will continue working with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) – Emergency Management Institute (EMI) to offer Communications Unit Leader (COML) training. OEC also plans to transition the Communications Technician (COMT) training program to EMI for consistency. Finally, OEC will also explore additional communications unit training to supplement the popular COML and COMT courses. OEC will continue to evaluate the TA program to develop new offerings and ensure assistance goes to address gaps identified in the SCIP and Goal 2 data. OEC is also exploring ways to expand training and TA by offering web-based training.

Mr. Bradley provided an update on Federal grants. The SAFECOM Grant guidance is intended for State, local, and tribal grantees to use when planning and applying for Federal communications grants. It addresses emergency communications priorities, an overview of current grants environment and an appendix of additional resources. OEC has also been coordinating grant guidance at the Federal level. More than 40 Federal grant programs now have recommendations to ensure consistency in requirements. This is especially important as public safety begins using Federal grants for wireless broadband. In fiscal year 2012 (FY2012), grantees will see further reduction and streamlining of grants, increased reporting and accountability requirements, and a new Federal initiative affecting preparedness grants Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8). Essential resources for emergency communications grantees include: National Emergency Communications Plan, Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, FY2012 SAFECOM Guidance and website, and Statewide Interoperability Coordinators. OEC has released the SAFECOM Guidance to ensure grantees can use the FY2012 SAFECOM Guidance to plan their investments. The document can be found on the SAFECOM website:

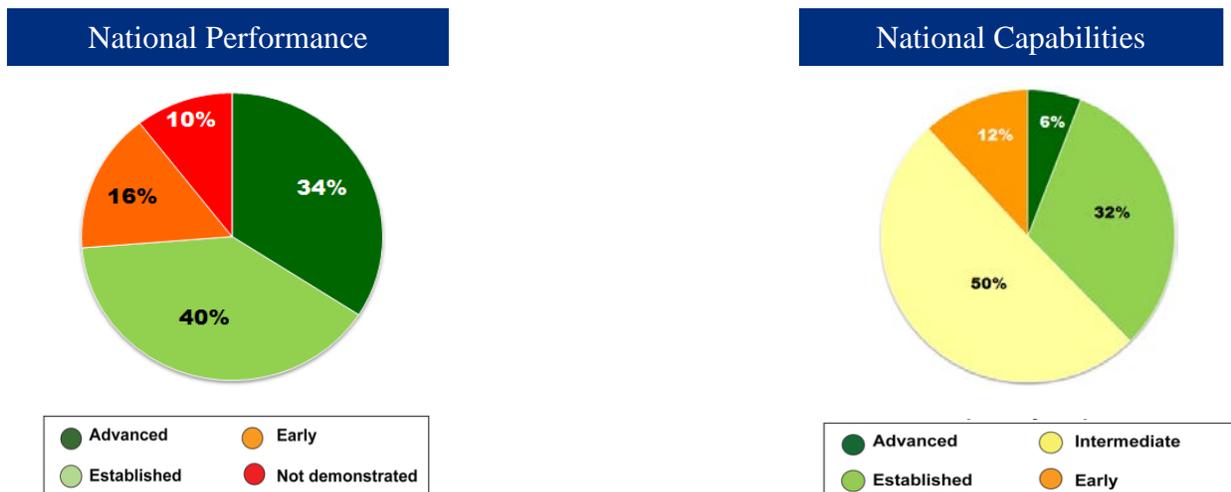
<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/library/lists/library/DispForm.aspx?ID=334>

Furthermore, Mr. Bradley reviewed wireless broadband for emergency communications as an OEC priority. OEC is partnering with the emergency response community in States and localities nationwide to ensure a successful deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) with inclusion of goals and objectives that align with the Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial goals for the deployment and use of broadband capabilities. OEC is also engaging with the 21 FCC waiver jurisdictions to support early build out of the wireless broadband network and to share their lessons learned more broadly.

NECP GOAL 2 RESULTS

Karla Jurens, TxDPS, and Mr. Bradley presented State and national summaries of NECP Goal 2 results, respectively. OEC encourages States and territories to continue gathering and reporting data from counties who have not yet submitted Goal 2 data. It is particularly important to report this data because it is likely that future grants, technical assistance, and workshops will be designed and targeted to address gaps identified in the data. Furthermore, the data will serve as a baseline to measure future progress as well as equip public safety communications professionals with valuable data to present to elected officials. It also gives OEC unprecedented insight into the communications capabilities that exist across the country.

OEC has received Goal 2 data from approximately 75 percent of the Nation’s counties, and is currently in the process of analyzing the data. A preliminary analytical finding is that States with high scores on COML and standard operating procedures also tend to have high performance scores. Overall, Goal 2 scores indicate that significant progress has occurred across the Nation since the 2006 National Interoperability Baseline Survey was conducted. Below is a summary of the Goal 2 preliminary findings, broken out by performance data and capabilities data.



Mr. Bradley provided a comparison of Texas’ statewide results to National averages. Nearly all of Texas’ counties had submitted data, and demonstrated capabilities above most National averages.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MODULE

STRENGTHS & NEEDS

Mr. Burney referred back to the objectives for the day, and reviewed the module activities. Prior to beginning, he explained the SCIP, SCIP Implementation Report, and example SCIP Initiatives to ensure all participants began with the same foundational information. He then asked participants to share what aspects of the SCIP or SCIP activities had been successful, and should be carried forward in the upcoming revision. Participants referred to their handout of completed

initiatives (Appendix B). Their responses included working together collaboratively, multi-purposing equipment, and good governance progress.

Next, participants shared Texas' current and near-future communications needs. The major themes identified by the group were:

- Recurring funding
- Include volunteer fire departments' challenges in planning
- Training and exercises
- Sustainability to maintain current capabilities.

PRIORITIZING NEEDS

After the group returned from lunch, Mr. Burney refocused attention to the identified needs of the State: sustainable funding (for current activities and future projects), communications training and exercises, and connecting to volunteer fire departments. The group divided into small groups to identify which of these issues should be addressed in the coming year based on available resources, the highest priority, and the priority of deciding bodies such as the Legislature and Administration. After some time for discussion, a representative reported the group's key findings out to the larger group. Each group was reminded to consider priorities from a statewide planning perspective, and the group did not need to reach consensus. During the report out, each group overwhelmingly prioritized finding sustainable funding sources to maintain the systems currently in place and to meet requirements. Many groups also discussed the importance of funding HB 442, which established a State Communications Interoperability Fund, but did not allocate monies, and informing and engaging local officials, relevant associations, and political leaders to also lobby the Legislature to establish and allocate revenue streams for the fund.

EVALUATING INITIATIVES

For their next activity, participants returned to their small group to evaluate the existing SCIP initiatives (Appendix C) to ensure they were consistent with the priorities identified earlier in the Workshop. Each group was assigned a continuum lane (Governance, SOPs, Technology, Training/Exercise, Usage) to verify those initiatives addressed Texas' prioritized needs, as well as delete any initiatives that are not actionable priorities. After robust discussion, a representative from each group reported out their group's takeaways.

Governance

- Add:
 - *Encourage the State Administrative Agency's (SAA) participation to drive funding in harmony with the SCIP and other policies.*
- Modify:
 - *Original: Develop project accountability policies/procedures to ensure successful implementation.*
 - *Revised: Develop project accountability policies/procedures to ensure agreement with the SCIP.*

- *NECP 6.4.76: Coordinate with RECCWGs to ensure that Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency response providers have developed and implemented communications continuity plans for maintaining or recovering and stabilizing operations during and following disaster events should be the lowest priority.*
- Delete:
 - *Assist COGs with agency compliance to RICP, TSICP, and SCIP prioritized initiatives.*
 - *Provide teleconference capability for regional meetings to increase agency/jurisdictions participation.*

SOPs

- Add:
 - *Develop a common, readily accessible repository website available to public safety agencies, and post the interoperability channels.*
 - *Update SOPs annually at least.*
 - *Use other SOPs in the area as examples.*
 - *Create talking points to assist people to reach out to their legislators and other influential persons.*
- Modify:
 - *To the extent possible, develop and adopt common subscriber unit programming protocols should be the second priority.*

Technology

- Add:
 - *Prioritize the 2013 narrowband requirement.*
- Modify:
 - Group the following initiatives:
 - *Ensure FCC licenses are modified to meet narrowband compliance.*
 - *Ensure infrastructure, pagers, and subscriber equipment are narrowband compliant.*
 - *Ensure firefighter aircraft are properly equipped with air-to-ground communications equipment.*

Training/Exercise

- Add:
 - *Make TCCLOSE training available to COG members so we can address operable/radio issues knowledgeably.*

Usage

- Add:
 - *Ensure each regional has a COML and a COMT, including establishing formal education and training, and developing simple drills to exercise equipment.*

Following the report out, the participants commented that securing consistent funding is the most important element in each initiative. A participant also noted daily testing of interoperable resources at each shift change is necessary.

FORMING A BUSINESS CASE

Mr. Burney briefly presented the elements of building a business case, using *securing sustainable funding* as the example initiative. Working individually, in pairs, and in small groups, participants built example work plans for an initiative of their choosing, most commonly crafting investment justifications to secure sustainable funding. The work plans can be found in Appendix D, and map out the Project Objective, Statewide Benefit, Costs, Major Milestones, and Stakeholders. A participant encouraged others to use the template with their other coordinating groups, particularly at the local level.

ACTION PLANNING & NEXT STEPS

As the Workshop came to a close, Mr. Burney summarized the day's activities and revisited the Workshop objectives. He thanked participants for their hard work, and explained the facilitation team will complete a Workshop summary, including participants' work plans. The group discussed the following next steps:

ACTION PLAN

Participants will:

- Research and assess participation of local, county, and State public safety and governmental leader in various public safety and government associations in order to promote and include sustainable communications funding as a legislative priority in 2013

Take the business plan template to interoperable communications committees and focus groups to promote consensus and outreach of these groups to political leaders to further promote sustainable communications funding as a legislative priority

TxDPS will:

- Include sustainable communications funding and the identification of revenue and allocation of dollars to the HB442 fund as a legislative priority
- Create a form letter for Texas Sheriffs to sign and send to legislative officials expressing support sustainable communications funding and the identification of revenue and allocation of dollars to the HB442 fund as a legislative priority

APPENDIX A – ACRONYMS

CIO	Chief Information Officer
COML	Communications Unit Leader
COMT	Communications Technician
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EMI	Emergency Management Institute (FEMA)
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
NPSBN	Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network
OEC	Office of Emergency Communications
OIT	Office of Information Technology
PPD-8	Presidential Policy Directive 8
RC	Regional Coordinator
RIC	Regional Interoperability Committee
SAA	State Administrative Agency
SCIP	Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWIC	Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
TA	Technical Assistance
TxDPS	Texas Department of Public Safety
UASI	Urban Areas Security Initiative

APPENDIX B – COMPLETED SCIP INITIATIVES

Texas Completed Initiatives & Accomplishments (includes expanded SCIP Initiatives; however this is NOT all inclusive):

➤ Texas SCIP Initiatives Alignment with the NECP

- **NECP Milestone 1.1.2:** By 7/31/09, establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent positions.
 - **Supports Initiative 1.1:** Facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designate emergency communication leadership roles.
- ☑ Texas has an interim Interoperability Coordinator. The TX SCIP includes an initiative to hire full-time Interoperability Coordinator by 2010.
- **NECP Milestone 1.1.5:** By 7/31/09, the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) should incorporate the recommended membership as outlined in the SCIP Guidebook and should be established via legislation or executive order by an individual State's governor.
 - **Supports Initiative 1.1:** Facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designate emergency communication leadership roles.
- ☑ The Governor appointed the Texas Radio Coalition (TxRC) as the governing body for the Texas SCIP. The Texas SCIP governance charter is based on the SAFECOM/DHS template. It was adopted February 11, 2008.
- **NECP Milestone 1.3.11:** By 7/31/09, tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.
 - **Supports Initiative 1.3:** Integrate strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts across all levels of government.
- ☑ All 24 State planning regions were directed to assess regional communications interoperability and develop communications SOPs and COG TICPs. Each region also identified interoperability needs to be addressed within the next three years.
- **NECP Milestone 3.1.37:** By 1/31/10, emergency response agencies program an appropriate set of frequency-band-specific nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios and incorporate the use of the channels into SOPs, training, and exercises at the Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal levels.

- **Supports Initiative 3.1:** Standardize and implement common operational protocols and procedures.
- ☑ The TX Interoperability Channel Plan (TICP) is being used as the foundation for interoperability within TX. The TX Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (TSIEC) will utilize the naming conventions as detailed in the NPSTC consensus plan as the basis for updating the existing TICP.
- **NECP Milestone 3.1.38:** By 7/31/10, SCIP reflects plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the Incident Command System (ICS), and agencies incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs, training, and exercises at the Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal levels.
 - **Supports Initiative 3.1:** Standardize and implement common operational protocols and procedures.
- ☑ The TX Interoperability Channel Plan and Channel Plan MOU require agencies to use “plain language” without 10-codes or agency-specific codes/jargon.
- **NECP Milestone 3.2.39:** By 7/31/09, all Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions have implemented the Communications and Information Management section of the NIMS.
 - **Supports Initiative 3.2:** Implementation of the NIMS and NRF (National Response Framework) across all levels of government.
- ☑ On February 23, 2005, Governor Rick Perry issued Executive Order RP 40 adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the statewide system to be used for emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities, as well as in support of all actions taken to assist local entities.
- **NECP Milestone 7.2.84:** By 7/31/10, complete disaster communications training and exercises for all 56 States and territories.
 - **Supports Initiative 7.2:** Implement disaster communication planning and preparedness activities.
- ☑ TX SCIP identifies the need to provide and require interoperable communications training, along with any and all emergency response and disaster management training, and exercises, at the regional level. This training is to be made available to all responders through various means such as classroom training, table-top drills, on-line and/or distributed workbooks, etc.

- **NECP Milestone 7.2.85:** By 7/31/10, all Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies in UASIs will have defined alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans.
 - **Supports Initiative 7.2:** Implement disaster communication planning and preparedness activities.
- ☑ TX SCIP identifies three different redundancies in communication: 1)The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service 2) The TX Regional Response Network and 3) A Strategic Technology Reserve. Redundancies are in place on a State, regional, urban level.

Accomplishments

- ☑ House Bill 442 establishing an account and method for funding for interoperable emergency communications infrastructure, approved on June 17, 2011 by Gov. Perry.
- ☑ Finalize the Texas SCIP Governance Charter based on the SAFECOM/DHS template. Tasks: Research, evaluate, draft, confirm.
- ☑ Prioritize Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC), DHS and State funds for immediate and critical communications needs. Tasks: 1) Distribute grants, as available, to build out operability and statewide interoperability. 2) Assist regions and state agencies in complying with the FCC mandated “narrowbanding” requirements by 2013. 3) Identify and fund ongoing operations, maintenance and back-haul expenses to support statewide system of systems.
- ☑ Each region developed an integrated SOP for mutual aid response to emergencies. Tasks: 1) Develop a template for the common regional integrated State and local agency SOP; 2) Regions adopt common integrated SOP by 12/15/2009.
- ☑ Exercise Regional SOPs
- ☑ RICP Round 1: Assist regions in the development of plans to migrate radio assets to a standards-based, shared System of Systems. Task: 1) Establish and mandate the technology standard for Texas public safety communications; 2) Form regional working groups to leverage existing systems and infrastructure when building new or upgrading and expanding systems; 3) Identify solutions that incorporate existing technologies and allows for new technologies and functionality in the future.
- ☑ Regions develop plans to migrate radio assets to a standards-based, shared system-of-systems, including a conceptual system design and required funding (RICP Round 2).
- ☑ Enhance training and exercise programs. Tasks: 1) Have individuals trained and certified as COM-L trainers
- ☑ Develop and exercise CCG emergency disaster communications capabilities.
- ☑ Develop and keep current an interactive statewide communications assessment database. Task: 1) Enter 80 percent of statewide communications assets into the CASM tool to validate agency radio communications capabilities and survey results. 2) Jurisdictions must routinely update CASM information to show commitment to adhere to the SCIP and to receive grant funding.
- ☑ NECP Goal 1: Texas five (5) UASI’S complied (90% of UASI areas provide response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.)
- ☑ Develop detailed statewide requirements (instructions) for NECP Goal 2 demonstrations.

- ☑ NECP Goal 2: 99% of Texas 254 Counties complied (75% of non-UASI jurisdictions provide response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.)

In a state as large and diversified as Texas, you can't really talk about communications accomplishments in an 11 second sound-bite. When your state has more than 5,300 public safety agencies serving 1208 incorporated cities and 254 counties, you need to talk specifics:

- ☑ 100 interoperable radio systems have been built or upgraded in Brazos Valley, Central Texas, East Texas, Permian Basin and South Texas Development Councils.
- ☑ 147 jurisdictions in the South East Texas region have been provided interoperable radio repeaters and subscriber units.
- ☑ Five mobile communications vehicles have been provided to the Central Texas, East Texas and Permian Basin regions.
- ☑ The Middle Rio Grande region built a nine county interoperable system which is now being used by state, local and federal emergency responders.
- ☑ Microwave networks are replacing expensive wire line systems in the Houston-Galveston and Middle Rio Grande regions.
- ☑ The Austin-Travis County Regional Radio System is being expanded and will soon provide communications across five counties.
- ☑ DPS acquired Texas' first 700 MHz system for the capitol area.
- ☑ Interoperable communications capability has been provided to 15 emergency operations centers / radio dispatch centers in the Central Texas and East Texas regions.
- ☑ Procurement of interoperable communications infrastructure equipment for the Panhandle Region is approximately 80% complete.
- ☑ 89 PSAPS (Public Safety Answering Points) have been upgraded with interoperable communications equipment in the North Central Texas region.
- ☑ A state Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) is available to provide communication in areas ravaged by catastrophic disasters such as Hurricane Ike. The STR includes mobile communications trailers with portable radios and portable radio sites, gateway devices (radio channel patches), video downlinks for helicopters to provide real-time video of evacuation routes, and many other types of communications equipment. During the Hurricane Ike response, state and local agencies deployed to the coast were able to establish interoperable communications within 16 hours after initial landfall -- a major accomplishment. More STRs are planned for strategic locations across Texas for quick response to public safety emergencies.
- ☑ The Texas Border and Coastal Communications Coalitions were created. These groups are partnering with federal agencies to fund and build reliable and secure public safety communications systems from El Paso to Brownsville, and Brownsville to Louisiana.

☑ DPS is acquiring advanced technology communications bridging equipment to connect individual systems for interoperability.

☑ Regional Systems built and/or enhanced due to SCIP Technology initiatives

Regional Systems	Description	Status
AACOG Radio Communications	Regional trunked P25 700 MHz and P25 VHF communications systems	Existing/planned: provide 11 counties 700 MHz P25 trunked radio service; interoperability with San Antonio's 8,000 users, Austin's 14,000 users, and 8,000 LCRA system users.
ARK-TEX COG	Cass, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, and Red River Counties and Cities of Sulphur Springs, Atlanta, and Clarksville all use VHF P25 systems. Bowie, Delta, and Titus Counties use VHF analog systems. The City of Texarkana utilizes an 800mhz trunked system, and the City of Paris utilizes a dual-band VHF and UHF P25 system. All entities in the region have obtained interoperability with each other.	Existing/planned
Austin, Travis County Greater Austin-Travis Co. RRS (GATRRS) CAPCOG region	GATRRS is 700/800 MHz trunked P25; provides system controller for: Williamson, Caldwell, Bastrop, and Lee Counties, South Texas Development Council's four VHF counties, Middle Rio Grande Valley Developments Council's nine VHF counties, and a 700 MHz Texas DPS State Capitol trunked site. Combined systems serve more than 100 agencies and 15,000 users.	Existing/planned
Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS)	P25, 700 MHz, 7-site trunked system in Brazos and Washington Counties; shares controller with the TxWARN system.	Existing/planned expansion: remaining five counties of the Brazos Valley COGs area.
Concho Valley	P25 VHF MHz trunked system: connected by 4.9 GHz point-to-point links.	Existing/ planned: build-out of VHF trunked sites through the remainder of the 13-county CVCOG region.
Deep East Texas COG	Conventional VHF P25 mixed mode repeater system replacing 25 legacy city/county dispatch repeater channels in the 12 counties; secure IP network links 25 repeaters and 30 dispatch consoles that enables wide-area roaming and interoperability.	Existing/planned
East Texas COG	<p>Thirteen of the fourteen counties use VHF for their primary public safety communications. Approximately 90% of the region has converted to narrowband compliance.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been a push to migrate everyone to P25 compliance and this continues with new purchases. Attainment of this goal is approximately 50% in the region.</p>	<p><u>Existing</u>: 75% of the COG is covered by TxWARN system partnership w/East TX Medical Ctr.</p> <p><u>Planned</u>: Utilize existing TxWARN infrastructure to create an overlay for ETCOG connectivity via ISSI</p>

	Smith County and the City of Longview operate 800 MHz systems as part of the East Texas Medical Center / TxWARN system.	routing.
El Paso City and County Regional Radio System	Voice: 800 MHz proprietary trunked system; 4 sites. Data: Automatic Vehicle Locator and CAD.	Existing planned: P25 800 MHz trunked System city-wide with gateway to VHF users.
Harris County P25 TxWARN	Proprietary and P25 700/800 MHz trunked voice and data regional network; coverage over 24 counties, approximately 80,000 subscriber units, and more than 600 agencies on the system.	Existing/planned
Harris County BIGNet (broadband)	Broadband Interoperability Gateway-Network (BIGNet) 700 MHz LTE Public Safety Broadband Network. Projected go-live date for Harris County is August 1, 2012.	Existing/planned
Heart of Texas COG (HOTCOG)	Waco uses a proprietary analog trunked system, but is migrating to the P25 TxWARN trunked network (partners: Harris Co. and East TX Medical); expect to be fully migrated by mid-2013.	Existing/planned
Houston, City of	Land Mobile Voice: P25, 700 MHz trunked system; @20,000 subscriber units expected; 45-50 sites. Mobile Data: current capability: WEB EOC with up to 1000 users; CAD handles 5000+ calls per day; Fire RMS with 1000+ users; OLO (On-Line Offense) PD RMS @5000 users; and voice logger that records 10,000+ calls. City of Houston will be a partner with P-25 TxWARN.	Existing/planned
Laredo, City of	P25 700/800 MHz Simulcast trunked System; 3 sites, ten (10) channels. Provides voice communication for 24 City departments, including public safety, police, and fire. Approximately 2,200 subscribers. Used by DPS, TABC, and CBP, during combined operations (interoperability), 65 subscribers.	Existing/planned;
LCRA	900 MHz proprietary trunked system: covers 46,000 square miles and 60 counties; provides primary communications for public safety agencies within the area. 700 MHz P25 trunked Overlay system: provides seamless integration into regional systems and conventional systems.	Existing/planned: Completed 14, 700 MHz overlay sites of 56 sites.
LRGVDC Regional Radio	P25 700/800 MHz trunked with a P25 core. Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties share this system consisting of 9 sites across the region. Combined sites serve more than 100 agencies and 8,000 users. Currently installing 10 th site. 2 to 7 additional 700/800 MHz P25 sites planned as well as VHF overlay.	Existing/planned: 9 sites active, 10th site under construction, 2 to 7 additional sites planned.
MRGDC Regional Radio System	VHF P25 trunked, 19 site system; serves 9 counties, 51 agencies, and the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe along the Texas-Mexico border area.	Existing/planned
North Central Texas COG Communications Systems Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington UASI	P25 700 MHz trunked Communications Overlay System active (ISSI between DFW Airport Harris brand and City of Dallas Motorola Cores) McKinney: P25 trunked System. Plano/Allen/Wylie/Murphy: P25 trunked System. Frisco: P25 800 MHz trunked system. DFW Airport: P25 700 MHz trunked site connected to its P25 core. Dallas: P25 core. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART): Proprietary trunked radio system. Parker County: P25 VHF trunked system Hurst: P25 700 MHz trunked system (single site)	Existing and planned: Fort Worth/Tarrant County/Johnson County-initial planning for a multi-site, multi-county P25 700/800 MHz trunked radio system; Dallas hiring consultant for County wide RFP and system development for new

	White Settlement: P25 800 MHz trunked system (single site) Nine additional proprietary shared trunked radio systems in the UASI.	700/800 MHz radio system; Irving final decision stages of system migration from existing 800 MHz proprietary to P25; Richardson 800 MHz P25 system (replacing proprietary) to be on air in last quarter of 2011.
Panhandle Regional Interoperable Communication System (PANCOM)	Conventional VHF P25 repeater system replacing 60 legacy county dispatch repeater channels in the 26 counties; secure IP network links 130 repeaters and 60 dispatch consoles that enables wide-area roaming and interoperability.	Existing/planned
PermianLink (PBRPC)	P25 VHF/800 MHz trunked system: connected by 4.9 GHz point-to-point links.	Existing and planned: continue the build-out of VHF trunked sites through the remainder of the 17-county PBRPC region.
San Antonio-Bexar County Regional 800 MHz Trunked Radio System (SA-BCRRS)	Proprietary 800 MHz Trunked Radio System: provides service to more than 40 county-wide local, State, and Federal public safety agencies; serving a total of over 8,000 subscribers; interconnected to LCRA 900 MHz proprietary trunked radio system and the City of Corpus Christi/Nueces County Regional Radio System (proprietary) providing interconnectivity along the emergency evacuation routes; 19 channel simulcast sites provide radio coverage for the core of the metropolitan area, with six additional remote multicast sites providing extended coverage in outlying areas of Bexar County.	Existing and planned: expanding with a two site P25 Conventional VHF overlay system; and a 5 site 700 MHz P25 layer.
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)	Jefferson, Hardin, and soon the City of Orange in Orange County is a proprietary 800 MHz Trunked Radio System. In process of upgrading to a 7X (P25) system with Smart X switch. Orange County seeking to add 700 MHz simulcast system in Orange County through new regional 7X switch. All Jefferson & Hardin County Public Safety on SETRRS. Shared talkgroups with Orange County Public Safety.	Existing/planned merger of Orange systems to SETRRS and P25 compliance.
South Texas Development Council (STDC)	Four -Site VHF P-25 trunked system; 4 repeaters at each site and connected to the Greater Austin Travis County Area Regional Radio System P25 core; wide-area testing completed and successful.	Existing/planned: pending installation of consoles and programming of subscriber units
Victoria, City of	P25 800 MHz digital 11 channel trunked system serving City of Victoria PD, Fire & EMS, Victoria Sheriff's Office, Victoria County Fire, TABC, and Victoria College Police Department.	Existing, no planned expansion now; possibly to the remaining six counties of the Golden Crescent area
West Central Texas System (19 Counties)	19 county shared systems: VHF wideband conventional; P25 repeaters. City of Abilene: a proprietary non-P25 800 MHz trunked system with non-trunked VHF radios on key deployable assets that routinely	Existing/planned: interconnect all county dispatch centers and the City of Abilene dispatch center into a VoIP/RoIP network

	respond in support of surrounding jurisdictions. 18 of 19 dispatch centers upgraded to multi-channel and multi-band (VHF, UHF, 700, and 800 MHz) patching capability	comprising a system-of-systems for the region.
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2011 Texas House Bill 442

- Enacted by the Texas Legislature and approved by Gov. Perry June 17, 2011
- Account established for Interoperable Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure
- Funding (when appropriated) may be used for:
 - Planning, development, enhancement and maintenance of interoperable infrastructure
 - In compliance with SCIP
 - Development of regional or state interoperable radio systems
 - Distributed as grants

APPENDIX C – CURRENT SCIP INITIATIVES**Texas SCIP Initiatives****Governance Initiatives**

The following table outlines the strategic governance initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Texas identified in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
Additional State Initiatives				
Conduct annual Statewide Strategic Planning Conference.	Discuss and confirm initiatives and implementation	TxICC; COGs; State Agencies	Annual SCIP requirement	On-going
Assist COGs with agency compliance to RICP, TSICP and SCIP prioritized initiatives.	No regional authority exists to police compliance with RICP, TSICP, & SCIP	COGs, SWIC, SAA	Jan 1, 2012	On-going
Provide teleconference capability for regional meetings to increase agency/jurisdictions participation	Stakeholder involvement/ commitment from all jurisdictions	COGs	Annual review each June	On-going
Develop project accountability policies / procedures to ensure successful implementation.	Robust accountability; project mgmt	Technology Advisors & SAA	Annual review each June	On-going training
NECP 6.4.76: Coordinate with RECCWGs to ensure that Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency response providers have developed and implemented communications continuity plans for maintaining or recovering and stabilizing operations during and following disaster events.	COOP	SWIC & staff	June 1, 2012 –ID and assist jurisdictions needing assistance	In progress
Secure consistent funding for interoperable communications ongoing development, capital replacement, and maintenance costs.	No dedicated funding mechanism for communications efforts	SWIC & Technology Advisors	Annual reports	On-going
Prioritize Communications funding for critical communications needs including building out operability and complying with narrowband requirements by 2013.	Lack of funding	SWIC, SSA, COGs	Annual SHSGP	On-going

SOP Initiatives

The following table outlines the SOP strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Texas outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
Additional State Initiatives				
Post RSOPs on DHS Communities of Practice site for availability to regional and mutual aid emergency responder agencies.	RSOPs unavailable to public safety mutual aid responding agencies	Texas COGs	Dec 1, 2012	In Progress
Develop and distribute educational materials announcing the availability of the RSOPs and how to access them.	RSOPs unavailable to public safety responding agencies	SWIC & Staff	Dec 1, 2012	In Progress
To the extent possible, develop and adopt common subscriber unit programming protocols.	Interoperability; knowledge of ICS channels	TxlCC & COMLs	Jan 1, 2013	In Progress

Technology Initiatives

The following table outlines the technology strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Texas outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.</i>	Mutual aid interoperability	COGs	6/1/12 confirm w/narrowband programming	In progress
Additional State Initiatives				
Provide operability throughout the State by implementing solutions to close gaps found through regional gap analysis.	No operability in parts of Texas	SWIC & COGs	2013	In Progress
Ensure all emergency response agencies have submitted TSICP MOU and programmed Texas interoperability channels in responder radios.	Mutual aid interoperability	COGs, Public Safety Agencies	June 2012	In Progress
Ensure FCC licenses are modified to meet narrowband compliance	Narrowband compliance by 2013	COGs, Public Safety Agencies	June 1, 2012	In Progress

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
Ensure infrastructure, pagers, and subscriber equipment are narrowband compliant.	Narrowband compliance by 2013	COGs, Public Safety Agencies	June 1, 2012	In Progress
Ensure firefighter aircraft is properly equipped with air-to-ground communications equipment.	Disaster communications	SWIC	June 1, 2012	In Progress
Develop and initiate planning and procedures for building a Texas Public Safety LTE system.	LTE Interoperability	SWIC & staff	Jan. 2015	In Progress

Training and Exercises Initiatives

The following table outlines the training and exercises strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Texas outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into training and exercises.</i>	Mutual aid interoperability	TDEM; SWIC	June 1, 2012 TSCIP & RSOPs	In Progress
Additional State Initiatives				
Develop formal communications curriculum and delivery programs for use by responders and academies statewide.	Knowledge of radio systems, equipment, and SOPs Statewide implementation of communications systems, equipment, SOPs supported by formal training programs.	SWIC, TDEM, DPS, TFS, TCLOSE, TCFP, SFFMA & TEEX	Jan 2013	In Progress
Develop short, simple drills which exercise interoperability channels and equipment that individual agencies (dispatchers and end users) can incorporate into daily operations.	Interoperability training	TxICC & COMLs	Jan 2013	In Progress
Ensure each COG has assigned COMLs & COMTs skilled in deployment, setup, and operation	Basic skills in setup, and operation of interoperable	SWIC & COGs	June 1, 2012	In Progress

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
of gateway equipment.	resources.			
NECP Goal 3: 75% of all jurisdictions provide response-level emergency communications within three hours in the event of a significant incident.	Statewide Interoperability	UASIs, COGs, State Agencies, SWIC	Aug 2013	Not Started

Usage Initiatives

The following table outlines the usage strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Texas outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status
Conduct annual Focus Group Sessions to identify gaps and mitigation strategies.	Forum to voice operational requirements and current concerns	TxICC; COGs; State Agencies	Annual RICP requirement	On-going
Develop and keep current an interactive statewide communications assessment database (CASM).	Capabilities assessment	COGs & State Agencies	Annual April-June	On-going
Test regional interoperability equipment each quarter.	Knowledge of equipment	COGs & COMLs	Jan, April, July, Oct	On-going
Require dispatchers and end users to exercise interoperability channels and equipment in daily operations.	Interoperability training	TxICC & COMLs	June 2012	In Progress
Develop usage matrix for mutual aid channels, integrated with NIMS structure.	Pre-planned ICS Form 205	COMLs	June 1, 2012	In Progress
Explore alternative solutions that reflect simple technologies to achieve statewide interoperability at a lower cost.	Statewide interoperability by 2015	COGs, SWIC	Jan 1, 2013	In progress

APPENDIX D – WORKSHOP MATERIALS

Title	Description	Document
SCIP Strategic Planning – Texas	SCIP Implementation Workshop Presentation	 Texas SCIP Strategic Planning_dr
Work Plans	Participants’ Work Plans to Secure Sustainable Funding	 Texas SCIP Strategic Planning_W

TEXAS
STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY PLAN (SCIP)
IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP
MARCH 6, 2012 7901 N IH 35, AUSTIN, TX

WORKSHOP AGENDA

9:00 am – 9:20 am	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen Duke• Ken Bradley, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)• Ken Born, OEC Regional Coordinator (RC)• Mike Burney, OEC Support, Facilitator
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Workshops Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Burney, OEC Support, Facilitator
9:30 am – 10:15 am	Narrowbanding, Wild land Fire, and Texas TSICP Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Jarrett, David Abernathy, and Gary Wilks
10:15 am – 10:50 am	OEC Overview Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ken Bradley, OEC• Ken Born, OEC Regional Coordinator (RC)
10:50 am – 10:55 am	<i>Break</i>
10:55 am – 11:10 am	National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2 Results/Goal 3 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ken Bradley, OEC• Ken Born, OEC RC• Karla Jurrens, DPS
11:10 am – 11:30 am	Strategy Session Introduction
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Strategic Planning Module/SCIP Revision <p>SCIP Strengths, Validate Current and Near-Future Needs, Prioritize Needs, Evaluate SCIP Initiatives, Build an Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Burney, OEC Support, Facilitator
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Next Steps and Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Burney, OEC Support, Facilitator

APPENDIX E – WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Name (First, Last)	Title	Organization (please spell acronyms)	Email	Phone
Donna Johnson-Valiente		Alamo Area Council of Governments	ajohnson@aacog.com	
Fred Keithley			FKeithley@nctcog.org	
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Tim Jeske		HOTCOG	Tim.jeske@hot.cog.texas.gov	
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Chuck Brotherton		City of Austin	Charles_brotherton@austintexas.gov	
Marc Vaughn		City of Austin		
Sherri Powell		LR Kimball	Sherri.powell@lrkimball.com	
Robert Adelman		Bexar County Sheriff's Office		
M. Forrest Anderson		Middle Rio Grande Development Council		
Lester Bashaw		Brazos Valley Council of Governments		
Brad Bearden		Travis Council Emergency Services		
Walter Billingsley		South East Texas Regional Planning Commission		
Michael Bland		Nortex Regional Planning Commission		
Larry Blare		City of Waco		
Bill Blowers		Bell County Communications		

Name (First, Last)	Title	Organization (please spell acronyms)	Email	Phone
Gregory Boren		FEMA Region VI		
Ken Born		Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications		
Keri Cain		Texas Association of Regional Councils		
Steven Campbell		Texas DPS Communications		
Wayne Canaday		McLennan County		
Lynn Chaffin		City of Dallas		
Gene Chapline		Emergency Management		
Steve Casko		City of Austin		
Elizabeth Cole		Mission Critical Partners		
Michael Collins		Central Texas Council of Governments		
Wally Cox		Gainesville Fire-Rescue		
Deann Crews		Ark-Texas Council of Governments		
Dalton Cross		Bell County Communications		
Kelly Crunk		Texas Commission on Environmental Quality		
Timothy Dotson		Houston-Galveston Area Council		
CJ Durbin- Higgins		Texoma Council of Governments		
Carol Edgett		Comal County		
Harold Gerguson		HOTCOG		
David Flores		City of Midland		
Francisco Garcia		Roma Police Department		
Paul Gilbert		Texas Department of Transportation/Radio Operations		
Alan Girton		City of Fort Worth		

Name (First, Last)	Title	Organization (please spell acronyms)	Email	Phone
Nicole Gonzalez		Concho Valley Council of Governments		
Robert Grimm		South East Texas Regional Planning Commission		
Michael Hare		City of Bryan		
Bucky Hasty		City of San Angelo		
Cindy Hood		CAPCOG		
Joe Jarrett		Texas Department of Public Safety Communications		
Karla Jurens		Texas Department of Public Safety		
John Keiser		South Texas Development Council		
John Kiehl		Panhandle Regional Planning Council		
Rickie Kilgore		Arkansas Pass Fire Department		
Ashley Kimbell		Texas Department of Public Safety		
Sue Landry		SETRPC		
Brock Logan		Texas 911 Commission		
Jeffrey Lyon		Hill County Sheriff's Office		
Melody Lytle		Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission		
Tom Mann		WCTCOG		
Ron Mayworm		Brazos Valley Council of Governments		
B. John McDaniel		Midland County Sheriff's Office		
Wayne McDaniel, Jr.		Hardin County Constable's Office, PTC 5		
Linda McGuill		Disaster Preparedness and Response Solutions		
Gabriella McKittrick		Texas Department of Public Safety Communications		

Name (First, Last)	Title	Organization (please spell acronyms)	Email	Phone
Larry McRae		Mt. Pleasant Fire Department		
Tommy Murillo		South Plain Association of Governments		
Danny Neal		McCulloch County		
Faye Prevot		Houston-Galveston Area Council		
Juan Pruneda		City of Laredo		
Gerald Richmond		Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission		
Mary Ruiz		Alamo Area Council of Governments		
David Shaw		Texas Department of Public Safety – TDEM		
Aaron Slaughter		City of Lockhart		
Sarah Somers		Grayson Coutny		
Carol Sutherland		Texas Department of Public Safety		
Clinton Tetford		Lubbock County		
Barney Welch		Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission		
Jeffrey Wending		Kerrville Police Department		
Jack Wilkins		Galveston County Emergency Communication District		
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Nicole Ugarte	Co-facilitator, Support	DHS Office of Emergency Communications	Nicole.ugarte@associates.hq.dhs.gov	