



SWIC Office Updates
11/13/23

TxICC and SWiC Office Releases:

- Texas SCIP adopted on 7/13/23
- Texas Report on Interoperability to the Texas Legislature released on 8/31/23

TxICC Newsletter

The SWiC Office issues a monthly Newsletter!

If you don't receive a copy in your email, let us know and we will add you to our distribution list.

TXSWiC@dps.Texas.gov



TxICC Monthly - September 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

The TxICC Conference will be held in New Braunfels, TX.

System Manager Meeting: Sunday, November 12, 2023, from 1:00-4:30 pm

TxICC Conference: Monday, November 13, 2023, from 7:30 am-5:30 pm



New Location this year!

We are co-locating the TxICC Conference with the Texas MTUG meeting to help you reduce travel expenses and time away from your office.

Hotel Reservation Links



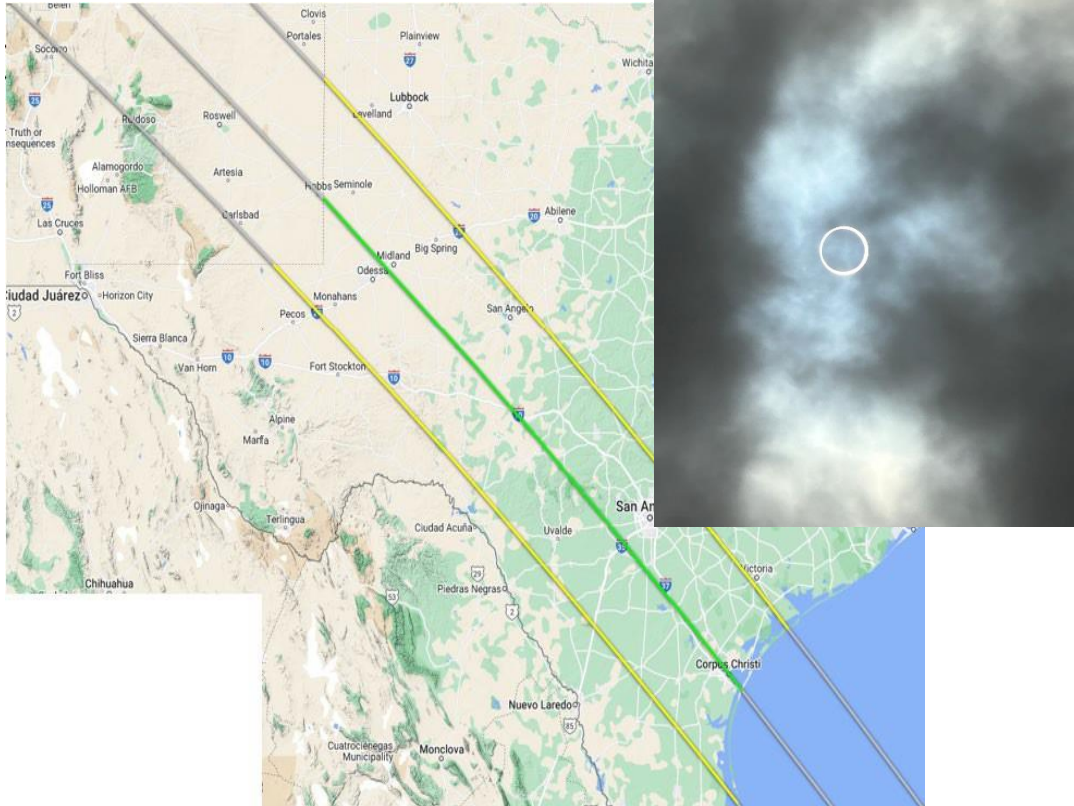
Register for the meetings using the links below.

Please register on preparingtexas.org for each meeting that you plan to attend.

System Managers Meeting

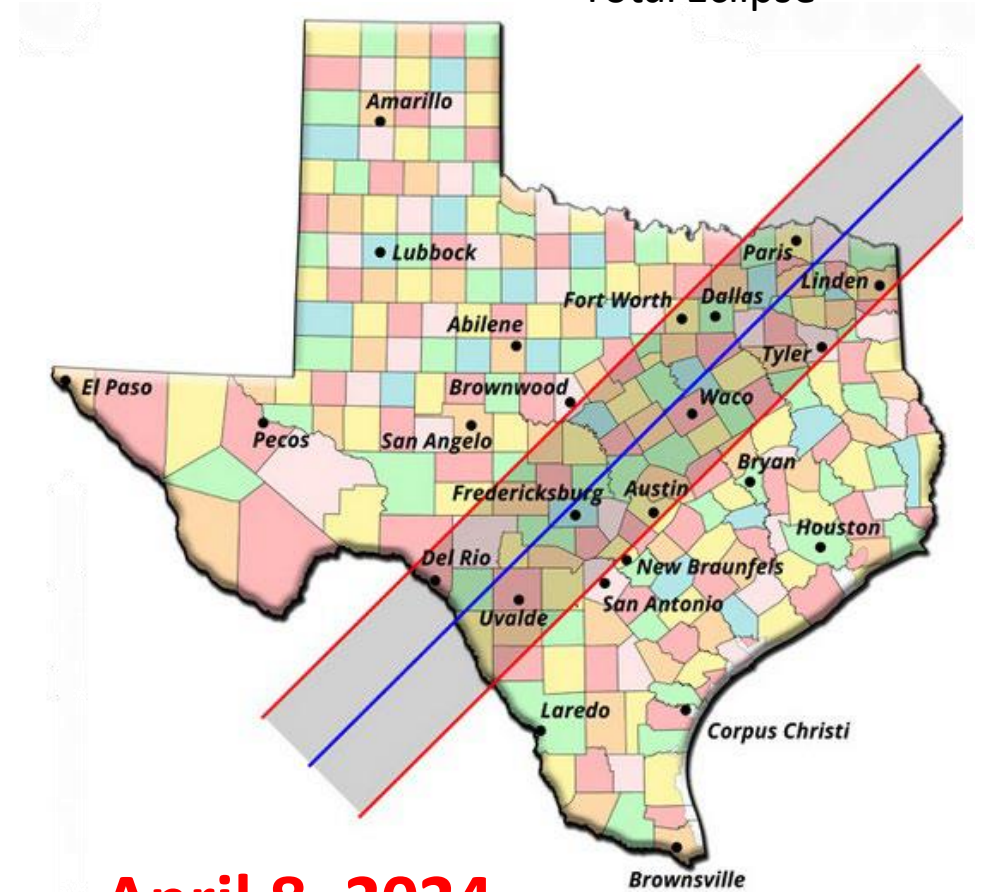
Solar Eclipse Planning x2!

Annular Eclipse







October 14, 2023

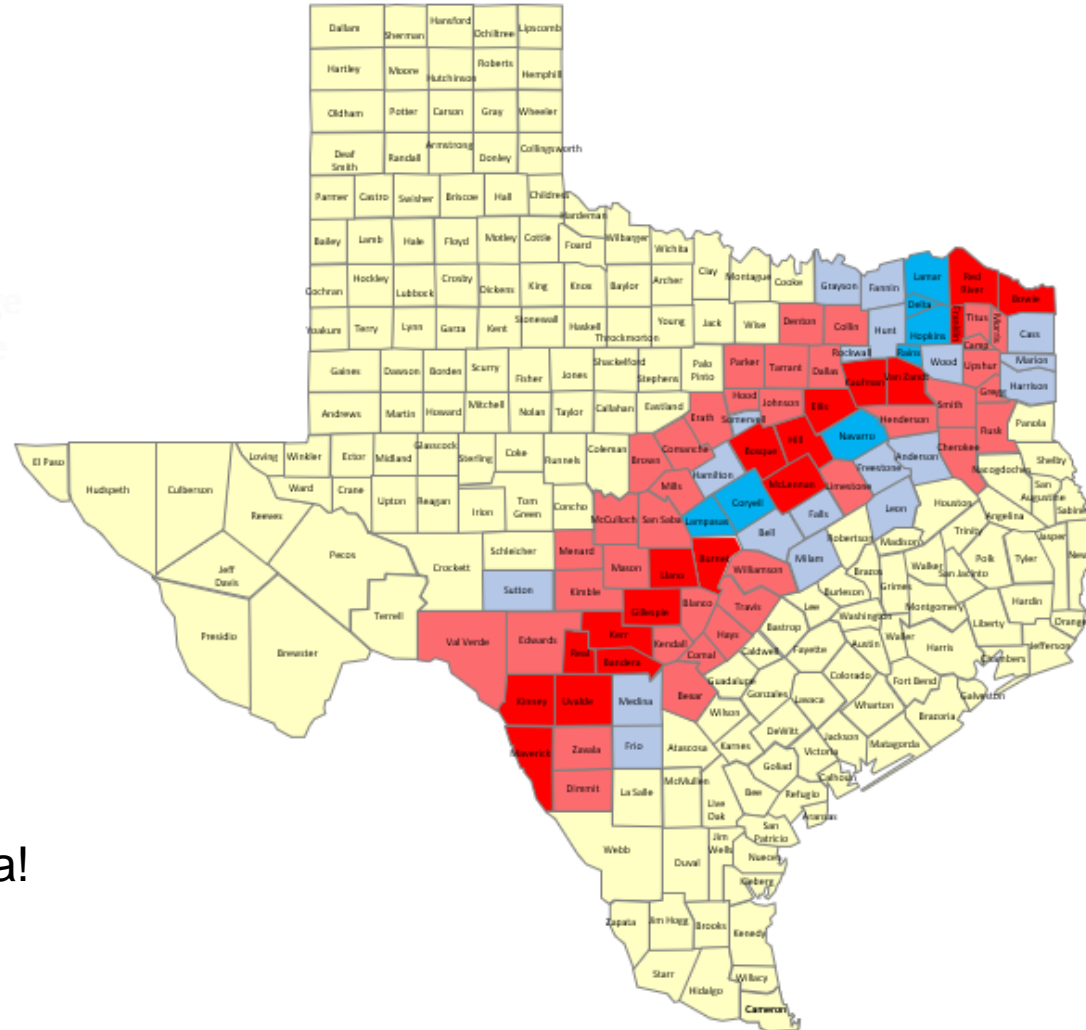
Total Eclipse



April 8, 2024

2024 Solar Eclipse – TIRIS Network Coverage

-  Totality – Coverage
-  Partial – Coverage
-  Totality – NO Coverage
-  Partial – NO Coverage



Testing being conducted to verify connectivity and coverage

More information later in the agenda!



RED RIVER

COMU Boot Camp

ALL HAZARDS COMU COURSES + EXERCISE



What:

6 COMU Courses will be running simultaneously through Wednesday. Thursday will be a one day scenario based exercise to kick start Position Taskbooks.

Available Courses:

- Communications Unit Leader
- Communications Technician
- Incident Tactical Dispatcher
- Incident Communications Center Manager
- Information Technology Services Unit Leader
- Auxiliary Communications



Where:

Winstar Resort
777 Casino Ave
Thackerville, OK 73459

Room Rates: 104 / night
Call 866-946-7787 and advise that you are with the
OKOHS Red River Comm Ex



How to Register

Course registration and exercise registration links as well as more information can be found at:

<https://central-states-comms.org/2023-red-river-comms-boot-camp/>



Texas – Oklahoma Sponsored Training Event

Opportunity to receive Communications Unit training:
6 courses were offered: a total of 86 students
attended, representing 67 organizations

180 participated in the COMMEX on the final day:
Working toward Position Task Book completion

10 Response Assets were provided

17 States were represented

Next event: 2024 Central States Exercise in Quapaw,
OK. September 9-12, 2024.

DATES: OCT 21 - 27, 2023
DRAFT AGENDA AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
VENDOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Upcoming ICT Branch Classes



Communications Courses

Scheduled:

COML – Midland, December 4 - 7, 2023

In Planning:

AUXC – Texarkana, 1Q '24

INCM – Arlington, February '24

ITSL – Houston, March '24

INTD – San Marcos/Austin, April '24

RADO – Pearland, May '24

COML – San Antonio, June '24

All courses will be available for registration on preparingtexas.org

Upcoming ICT Branch Exercises



Communications Exercises

COMMEX (DHS) - Florence, February 5 – 9, 2024 *Postponed
2024 Solar Eclipse – Texas, April 3 – 10, 2024

Focus Group and Interoperability Level Surveys



2024 Surveys will be open from mid-December 2023 through February 2024

COGs hold Focus Group Meetings with all their First Responder agencies to complete both the Focus Group and Interoperability Level surveys.

What is a Focus Group Meeting?

The purpose of the meeting is for agencies within a region to get together and share successes and issues from the interoperable communications point of view

The Focus Group meeting should be attended by as many agencies as possible so that answers to the questions in the survey represent the region as a whole.

The annual meeting is a required COG activity in the SCIP

Focus Group Survey

Asks questions about how well the region plans and works together

- Committee Meetings
- SOPs
- RICPs

Does the region participate in communications drills and exercises?

New questions on Mobile Communications Assets

Focus Group Survey

Opportunity to recognize regional successes and accomplishments

Identify gaps that remain in the region to achieve 'Level 5' communications

- Are these listed as priorities in the Region's RICP
- Why are these important? Justification for grant applications!

Focus Group Survey

Submit **ONE** survey from each COG/RPC, Tribe and the Combined State Agencies

Where is the Focus Group Survey data used?

- Annual Report on Interoperable Communications to the Texas Legislature
- Determine new SCIP initiatives
- Texas SWiC Office markers and measures to DHS/ECD
- HSSP metrics for Texas Homeland Security Office
- Setting regional priorities for grant funding

2023 Focus Group Survey Results

Complete results can be reviewed in the 2023 Legislative Report

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/infrastructure-operations/texas-statewide-interoperability-coordinator>

Governance:

92% of COGs reported they have an active Interop Communications Committee

36% of COGs reported they have updated their contact list with the SWIC

Planning and Procedures:

70% of COGs reported at least 1 local exercise using Mobile Comm assets

56% of COGs reported updating the RICP within the last five years

2023 Focus Group Survey Results

Training, Exercises and Evaluation:

74% of COGs reported agencies are participating in both regular radio drills and exercises (last year: 63%)

54% of COGs report that broadband applications are in use daily (last year: 50%)

82% of COGs reported that no updates have been done in the CASM database

Communications Coordination:

48% of COGs have reviewed or updated the Regional SOP

2023 Focus Group Survey Results

Technology and Infrastructure:

65% of COGs reported over 90% of agencies are using P25 equipment

(last year: 50%)

26% of COGs reported between 50-90% of agencies are using P25 equipment

(last year: 38%)

56% of COGs reported over 90% of agencies have programmed to the TSICP

(last year 50%)

34% of COGs reported between 50-90% of agencies have programmed to the TSICP

(last year 38%)

26% of COGs reported over 90% of agencies have executed a TSICP MOU

(last year: 33%)

30% of COGs reported between 50-90% of agencies have executed the MOU

(last year: 25%)

2023 Focus Group Survey Results

Cybersecurity:

17% of COGs reported between 75-100% of agencies have conducted a cyber assessment
(last year: 25%)

13% of COGs reported between 75-100% of agencies have developed a cyber incident
action plan
(last year: 21%)

Topics of Interest:

Critical Connect (TIRIS)

Operational usage of LMR for interoperability and mutual aid

Basic Radio use for responders

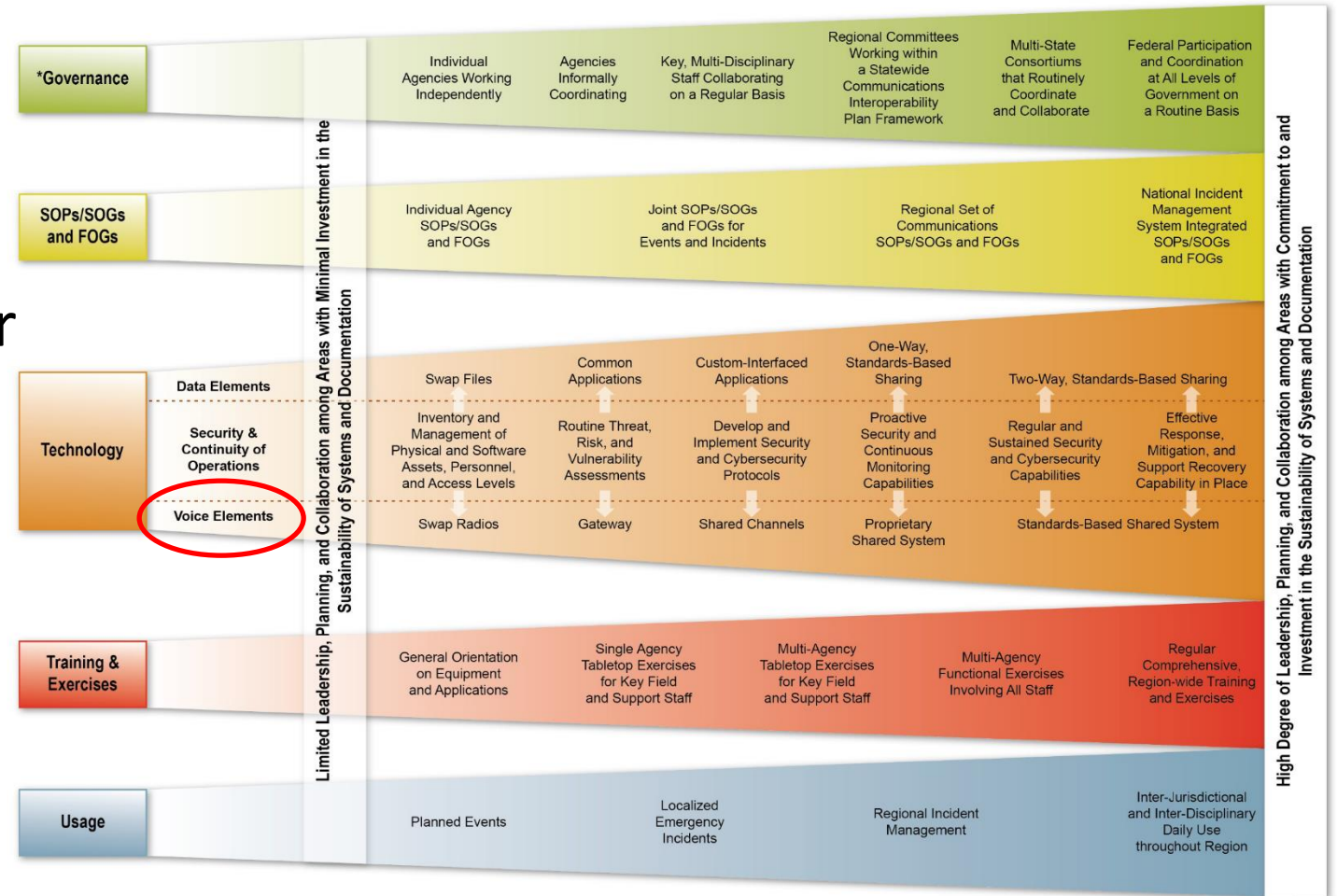
How to explain interoperable communications to decision makers

COML, and COMU training

What is the Interoperability Level Survey?

Provides a way to quantify the level of voice interoperability for each of the 254 counties

Questions are based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum

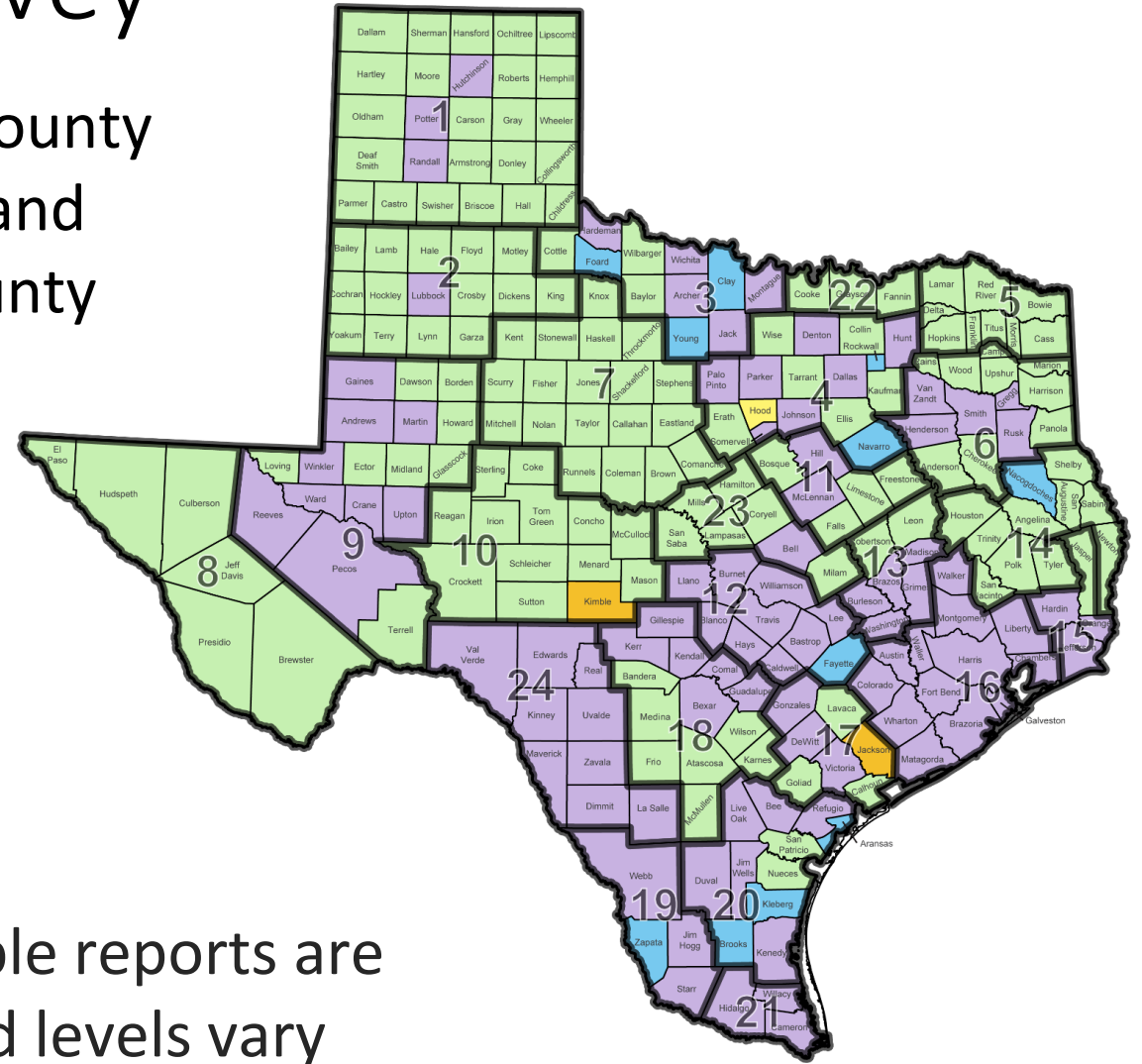


Interoperability Level Survey

Designate **ONE** person/agency within the county to complete the survey – needs to understand communications capabilities within the county

Submit **ONE** survey per county that reports status based on the county as a whole.

- Counties that do not submit a new Interoperability Level will remain the same as in previous reports
- COGs will be asked to clarify if multiple reports are submitted for a county, or if reported levels vary significantly from previous reports.



Interoperability Level – Voice Capabilities



Level 2: Console Patches



Level 3: Share Channel Programming
(Most Common)



Level 4: **NON P25** Shared Radio System



Level 1: Swap Radios



Level 5: **P25** Shared Radio System

Interoperability Level Survey

Where is the Interoperability Level Survey data used?

- The Voice Interoperability Level is used in the Legislative Report
2010 the state reported an interoperability level of 3.2
2023 the state reported an interoperability level of 3.76
(down from 3.80 in the 2022 report)
- Knowing a counties' current Interoperability Level and how a grant project might improve that level could be important in a grant application
- A county reporting a Level 4 will require follow-up verification



Public Safety Radio Basics 101

Date: October 2022
Version: 1.0



Courtesy City of Fort Worth Police Department



Courtesy Firefighter Gerald Finley, Port Neches Fire Department



Courtesy Clint Theford, Lubbock County

Public Safety Radio Basics 101

- Go Live – 6/29/23.
- Link on MyTCOLE 3.0:<https://tcledds.tcole.texas.gov/mytcole/Login>.
- As of 11/9/23 over **2060** students have taken the course
- The course offers 4 hrs CE credit
- The SWIC Office is working on a non-TCOLE option that would be open to more agencies/personnel
 - A private link is available to view the course, but no CE credits are available, contact TXSWIC@dps.Texas.gov for information.

GETS/WPS **FREE!**

Priority Telecommunications Services allow your call to overcome network disruptions:



More information later in the agenda!

SWiC Office 2023 Activity Report

The 2023 SCIP requires the SWiC to represent Texas at the Federal Level and at industry conferences: (2 NCSWiC meetings, 4NCSWiC/Federal Committee meetings, 2 Industry Conferences)

SCIP Workshop – January

Solar Eclipse Planning Session – February

COMT Class – April

Presented at IWCE – April

Information Sharing Tabletop Exercise, McAllen TX – April

TIA-TR8 P25 Standards Meeting and Steering Committee – April

Communications Section Task Force meeting – May

SAFECOM meeting - May

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators meeting – May

TDEM Emergency Management Conference – May

PSCR-FirstNet 5x5 Conference – June

Uvalde Solar Eclipse Exercise Planning and PACE plan development – July

APCO – August

Southwest Border Communications Working Group, Yuma AZ – September

Uvalde Solar Eclipse Exercise and Event – October

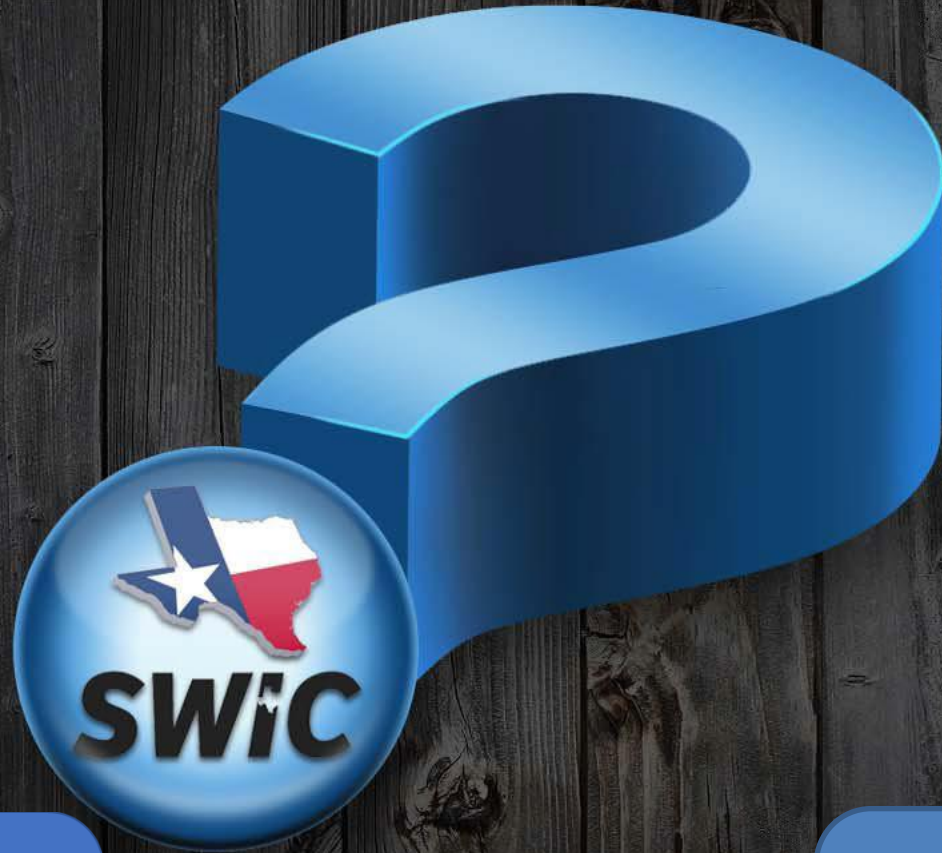
COG meetings: DETCOG, CBCOG and AACOG - October

Red River Boot Camp – October

TxICC Conference – November

Future: Tri-State Total Eclipse Exercise Planning - November

Future: NCSWiC meeting and FIFA'26 World Cup Communications Planning Summit - December



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