

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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September 15, 2025

Dear Member of the Texas Legislature,

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), in close cooperation with the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) and our local, state, tribal, and federal partners, is pleased to provide the *Annual Report on Interoperable Communications* in accordance with Texas Government Code §421.096 and §421.098. The report is available for your review at:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/iod/interop/docs/interoprpt.pdf>.

Over the past year, DPS and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) have worked diligently with stakeholders across Texas to strengthen public safety communications. Despite continued limitations in available funding, meaningful progress has been achieved through collaboration, careful resource management, and a steadfast commitment to the safety of Texans. Notable accomplishments highlighted in the 2025 Legislative Report include:

- Twenty-two of the twenty-four Councils of Government (COGs), all three federally recognized Tribes, and the combined State Agencies completed a 2024 Focus Group survey, providing a clear picture of regional needs and interoperability progress.
- Annual TxICC Conference convened to share best practices, identify challenges, and enhance coordination statewide.
- Publication of 23 TxICC newsletters and cybersecurity notices distributed to state and local stakeholders to ensure timely situational awareness.
- Continued progress, with only one COG and one Tribe reporting less than 25% of agencies meeting P25 compliance standards.

These accomplishments underscore the dedication of Texas's first responders and partner agencies. However, it is worth noting that reductions in state and federal grant funding are placing an increasing strain on progress in interoperability. Recent events in our State have highlighted the continued need to ensure that our frontline responders have the necessary tools to provide seamless voice and data communication, including interoperable situational awareness tools.

DPS remains fully committed to advancing interoperability across Texas. The SWIC and the TxICC will leverage and strengthen existing frameworks and partnerships, ensuring that first responders have established plans and standards to govern effective emergency communications at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels. Funding is still a critical factor in implementing the tools, training, and infrastructure necessary to achieve successful interoperability.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Freeman F. Martin, Colonel

**2025 Report on Interoperable Communications
to the Texas Legislature as required by:**

Texas Government Code 421.096

Texas Government Code 421.098

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Per Government Code 421.098, the Office of the Governor shall provide an annual report to the Legislature on the status of interoperable communications in Texas.

The 2025 Legislative Report highlights the planning, effectiveness, funding, accomplishments, and challenges of interoperable communications activities completed in Texas during 2024, reported by the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator's Office at the Texas Department of Public Safety, state agencies, regional Councils of Governments, and Tribal Nations through the annual Focus Group survey reports.

Comprehensively, in 2024, the counties in Texas reported a slight decrease in the level of voice interoperability from 3.78 to 3.74. The SWIC Office continues to develop educational materials to aid counties and agencies in better assessing their interoperability level. While the 2024 annual report showed a slight increase in interoperability, this year reflects the decade-long decrease in interoperability due to increasing equipment costs and decreased funding availability.

The major regional radio systems in the state continue to gain participating agencies and grow their coverage footprint. However, many agencies cannot afford the recurring subscription costs of joining a regional system, while others still choose to run their own independent systems. This complicates ongoing State efforts to interconnect disparate systems.

Training gaps continue to be one of the most significant impediments to effective, interoperable communication. The State, Regions, and Tribes all lack tools to incentivize participation in communications training and exercises.

Modern data and applications technologies provide additional and enhanced methods for addressing interoperability, such as through collaboration and situational awareness tools. In addition to addressing established standards, such as P25 with land mobile radio, the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) proactively addresses data interoperability by promoting common tools for daily operations and large-scale events, demonstrating that Texas is a leader in emergency communications planning and standards.

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Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) serves as the strategic plan for improvements in public safety communications. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), in partnership with the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC), leads SCIP-related planning and policy efforts.

The TxICC SCIP Executive Council (SEC) – a 29-member body that consists of a representative from each Council of Government, one per Tribal Nation, one for the combined State Agencies, and the SWIC – uses the SCIP to identify and address statewide communications challenges. The plan helps prioritize resources, strengthen governance, and inform stakeholders about the importance of continued investment in public safety communications.

The SWIC Office conducts regular workshops to review and update SCIP goals and initiatives (the progress status for each of these goals can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this report), in addition to the TxICC-hosted annual conference to vote on proposed updates and discuss emerging issues. The latest version of the SCIP is available on the Texas Department of Public Safety website. The biennial update to the SCIP is in progress and will be published in December 2025.

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/IOD/interop/docs/texasSCIP.pdf>

Regional Interoperability Communications Plans

In 2011, the TxICC initiated Regional Interoperability Communications Plans (RICP) to document public safety communications needs, create a technical implementation and migration plan, and identify the associated costs to meet those unique needs within each COG. Each COG/Tribe maintains and reviews the plans regularly. Through their annual Regional Focus Group Workshop, COGs and Tribes bring together public safety responders to discuss and document progress on their RICPs and the SCIP, as well as priorities, accomplishments, challenges, and needs.

The SWIC Office partners with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to hold workshops to review and update RICPs. Since 2017, twenty COGs and all three Tribes have conducted workshops to update their regional plans. Four COGs remain pending.

Communications is the fundamental capability within disciplines and jurisdictions that practitioners need to perform the most routine and basic elements of their job functions.

Agencies must be operable, meaning they must have sufficient wireless communications to meet their everyday internal and emergency communication requirements before they place value on being interoperable, i.e., able to work with other agencies.

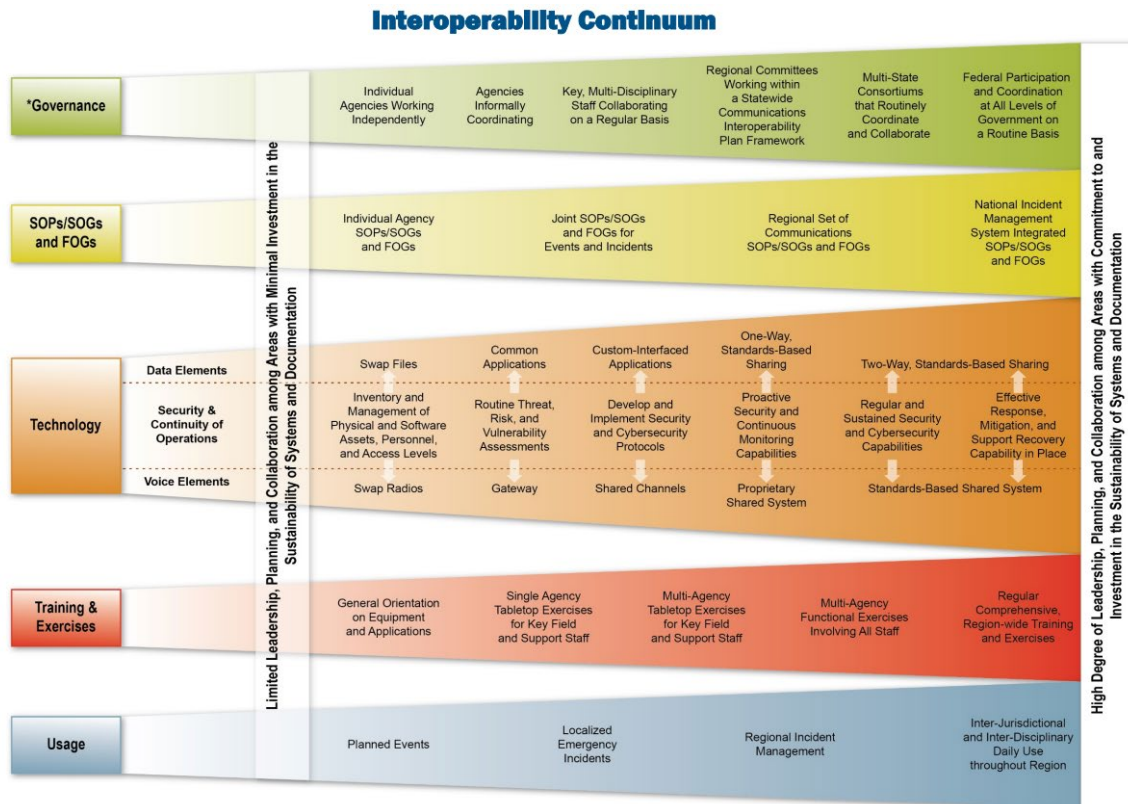
Communications interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies (police, fire, EMS) and service agencies (public works, transportation, hospitals, etc.) to talk within and across agencies and jurisdictions via radio and associated communications systems, exchanging voice, data and/or video with one another on demand, in real-time, when needed, and when authorized.

It is essential that public safety has the intra-agency operability it needs, and that it builds its systems toward interoperability.

Source: Target Capabilities List,
www.DHS.gov, 29

The Current Status of Voice Communications Interoperability in Texas

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model is based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. The model outlines the evolution from the lowest level to the highest level of communications interoperability.



Texas is reporting an overall level of 3.74 (Mid-Range) on the Voice Technology lane of the Maturity Model.

Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model Color Codes:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Level One (least interoperable) | 1 County |
| Level Two | 8 Counties |
| Level Three | 146 Counties |
| Level Four | 0 Counties |
| Level Five (most interoperable) | 99 Counties |
| Total: | 254 Counties |
| Average Statewide Interoperability Level: | 3.74 |

This level is a decrease in maturity from 3.78, as reported in the 2024 Report on Interoperable Communications. The SWIC Office continued to develop educational materials to aid counties and agencies in better assessing their interoperability level, which led to some counties evaluating their capabilities more accurately.

The most common level of interoperability in Texas is Level 3, with a growing number of counties and agencies wanting to join regional radio systems as SERI grants accommodate the construction of new towers and upgraded radios.

[Appendix B](#) shows a map of Maturity Model levels by county.

Expenditures Toward Interoperability

The Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) allocated \$6,369,582.90 in FY2024 Homeland Security Grant Program funding for Interoperable Communications to jurisdictions across Texas. These funds supported a range of interoperable emergency communications projects, including the construction of communication towers, upgrades to microwave transmission equipment, and the acquisition of mobile and portable radios and related accessories.

The PSO allocated an additional \$1,319,284.68 in FY2024 Justice Assistance Grant and the State Crisis Intervention Grant Program funding to support similar initiatives. These grants primarily funded the purchase of radios, communication accessories, and receiver/transmitter systems, enhancing the emergency communications capabilities of local jurisdictions.

The PSO also allocated \$23,114,587.36 through the FY2024 Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant program. Funding was allocated to COGs and state agencies to expand emergency communications infrastructure and improve statewide interoperability.

Ongoing challenges related to limited local funding and the high costs associated with maintaining aging communications equipment continue to impact the ability of agencies to develop and sustain interoperable communications systems. As a result, Texas jurisdictions remain heavily reliant on state and federal grant programs to ensure the operability of emergency communications for first responders, thereby supporting their critical mission of protecting the safety and security of Texans.

All communications equipment purchases funded through these grant programs are submitted to the SWIC Office for review, ensuring alignment with the SCIP goals and strategic initiatives.

Training

While technical barriers to interoperability still exist across the state, the most persistent barrier is inadequate end-user training. First responders from different agencies routinely arrive to the same incident with compatible equipment: multi-band, P25 radios correctly programmed with the state and national interoperability channels. Too often, the users do not know how to operate their radios to navigate to an appropriate channel or mode to maintain communications.

The SWIC Office partners with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Division of Emergency Management to host an online training course on radio basics. However, this is a general course, as agencies use many different models of radio from various manufacturers. There is also no state requirement that first responders take such training, nor that they prove ongoing competency in the use of their radios.

Another ongoing training need is the certification of personnel in Communications Unit (COMU) roles. The COMU is a critical part of the Incident Command System. COMU personnel develop the communications plan for an incident, and they provide logistical and technical

support for communications equipment. During a disaster, the timely arrival of trained COMU personnel helps establish effective, interoperable communications rapidly. It is vital to maintain a large roster of such personnel that can be activated and deployed during emergencies.

The SWIC Office oversees the training and credentialing of COMU roles in Texas, with support from DHS/Emergency Communications Division (ECD) and partner agencies.

Communications Training Courses offered by TxDPS and DHS/ECD in 2024

- One Communications Unit Leader class (16 attendees)
- Two Communications Technician classes (7 and 10 attendees, respectively)
- One Auxiliary Communications class (17 attendees)
- One Incident Tactical Dispatcher class (14 attendees)
- One Radio Operator class (11 attendees)
- One Information Technology Service Leader class (17 attendees)
- One Incident Communications Manager class (7 attendees)

State-Credentialed Communications Personnel

- Texas has 81 State Credentialed Communications Unit personnel
- Texas has 19 State Credentialed Communications Unit instructors

Accomplishments Toward Interoperability

Below are some achievements reported through the TxICC, TxDPS, and across the state in 2024.

TxICC / Statewide Accomplishments

The SWIC Office conducted various stakeholder engagements and activities:

- Processed 126 Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP) Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) defining interoperable communications protocols
- Approved 128 grant-funded communications equipment requests
- Two State Agency Communications meetings
- Annual TxICC Conference
- Produced and distributed 23 TxICC newsletters and cybersecurity notices

State Agencies improved their communications capabilities:

- DPS: Purchased multi-band radios with LTE capability
- TXDOT: Purchased multi-band radios
- TCEQ: Purchased multi-band radios
- TFS: Purchased multi-band radios with LTE capability

TxDPS Response Operations Deployments for 2024

Completed nineteen deployments supporting TxDPS Task Force and Special Operations:

- Temporary Emergency Operations Structure Training – 2/27 – 2/28/2024 - Florence
- Supporting THP for TX2K25 Races – 3/11-3/18/2024 - Waxahachie
- Chilifest – 4/4-4/8/2024 - Snook
- Riot training support - Coppell – 4/9 – 4/11/2024
- Solar Eclipse Emergency Support – 4/6 - 4/11/2024 - Star

- CEOT Training – 5/15 – 5/16/2024 - Austin
- TDEM Conference – 5/28 – 5/31/2024 – Fort Worth
- CEOT Training – 6/12 – 6/13/2024 - Austin
- Mobile Command Post Rally – 6/24 - 6/25/2024 – Dallas/Fort Worth
- COMMEX – 7/30 – 8/1/2024 - Florence
- Central States Communications Exercise – 9/9 – 9/13/2024 - Quapaw, OK
- Trooper Kevin Vasquez Funeral – 10/1 - 10/5/2024 – Hockley
- Hurricane Milton – 10/8 – 10/11/2024 - Florida
- Live at the Station Concert – 10/11 – 10/13/2024 - Snook
- Crowd control training – 10/23 - 10/25/2024 - Coppell
- Anti-gang taskforce – 10/30 – 11/4/2024 - Houston
- Voting Support – 11/5/2024 – Comal County
- DPS AOD Training – 11/14 – 11/22/2024 – La Copa Ranch (South Texas)
- Lampasas ISD Law Enforcement Competition – 12/7/2024 – Lampasas

Team Awareness Kit Deployments

The TxICC added a goal in the 2023 SCIP to implement Team Awareness Kit (TAK), a government-owned situational awareness application. TxDPS hosts Texas TAK for first responder agencies at no cost. Below is a non-exhaustive list of multi-agency events where TAK was implemented:

- College Football National Championship – January 2024 – Houston
- Flood response – January 2024 – East Texas
- Wildhog Festival – March 2024 – La Salle County
- Cattle Country Fest – April 2024 – Gonzales County
- Total Solar Eclipse – April 2024 – Statewide
- Pride Parade – June 2024 – Houston

Texas Interoperable Radio Interconnect System

The Texas Interoperable Radio Interconnect System (TIRIS) is the first phase of connecting the major regional radio systems in the state in a multi-vendor “system of systems” approach to achieve statewide voice interoperability. In 2024, there were four trunked systems: GATRRS (Greater Austin Travis Regional Radio System, LCRA (Lower Colorado River Authority), NTIRN (North Texas Interoperable Radio Network), and TXWARN (Texas Wide Area Radio Network), and three conventional sites connected to TIRIS (DPS-Amarillo, DPS-Waco, and Palo Pinto). The SWIC Office secured SERI grant funding in 2024 to add three additional trunked systems and up to seven conventional sites.

Communications Exercises coordinated with TxDPS in 2024

Communications Exercises (COMMEX) provide experiential learning based on disaster and critical incident scenarios.

- Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW) COMMEX Training in Corpus Christi – radio and data communications training with state and local agencies
- Central States Communications Exercise at Quapaw, OK, with numerous state and local agencies
- Texas COMMEX communications exercise at the TxDPS Tactical Training Center in Florence

Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs)

SAG members are representatives from the TxICC, and groups are established to achieve the goals and initiatives outlined in the SCIP. Selected accomplishments from each of the SAGs are summarized below:

Texas Encryption SAG

The Encryption SAG was formed to develop guidance and processes for coordinating the use of encryption keys.

Texas Broadband PTT SAG

The Broadband PTT SAG was formed to discuss integrating broadband push-to-talk applications into LMR Systems.

Regional Accomplishments

COGs and Tribes reported the accomplishments and challenges below through their annual Focus Group Reports. [Appendix C](#) highlights the Focus Group survey results from the COGs and Tribal Nations for 2024.

- One remaining COG and one Tribe have reported that less than 25% of their agencies are P25-compliant.
- 16 COGs reported agencies within their area are partners of existing regional radio systems
- 14 COGs completed projects to construct towers, upgrade radio systems, and install generators
- 21 COGs and one Tribe reported conducting regular drills, exercises, and events using interoperability assets
- The Lower Colorado River Authority established an ISSI Connection to the Coastal Bend Regional Radio System

Conclusion

Improving public safety interoperability in Texas requires more than technology alone; it demands sustained, dedicated funding and active participation from local governments. Without a reliable investment stream, agencies struggle to modernize equipment, maintain system readiness, and ensure personnel are adequately trained to operate seamlessly across jurisdictions and disciplines.

The success of statewide interoperability depends on the engagement of local governments, as emergency response is inherently initiated at the local level. Combining reliable funding with the existing framework will provide Texas with a resilient and unified communications environment, ensuring that first responders are fully trained and equipped to safeguard lives and property during both routine operations and large-scale emergencies.

APPENDIX A: SCIP Goals Progress Table

| Governance and Leadership | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|
| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | 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 | On Target | 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 | Off Target | Verified through Focus Group (FG) report | 1.2 |
| 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 | Approaching Target | 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 | Approaching Target | 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 | Off Target | Verified through FG report | 1.3 |
| 1.6 Develop legislative report of statewide progress towards interoperability and SCIP initiatives based on RICC Focus Group Reports | SWIC | June, annually | On Target | Completed report | 1.3 |
| 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 | On Target | 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 | On Target | 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 | On Target | SWIC Office attend per year: 2 NCSWIC meetings 4 NCSWIC/SAFEKOM/Federal committee meetings (virtual or in-person) 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 | On Target | Verified in Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS) reporting | 1.3 |

| Planning and Procedures | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------|--|----------------|
| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP Alignment |
| 2.1 Engage RICC to complete annual Focus Group and Interoperability Level reports, using surveys, webinars, or meetings | COGs, Tribes, SWIC | January, annually | On Target | >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 | Off Target | >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 | On Target | 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 | Approaching Target | Updated RICP reports, verified through FG report | 2.2 |
| 2.5 Explore option to publish SWIC office calendar | SWIC | September 2025 | On Target | Published calendar | 2.2 |
| Training, Exercises, and Evaluation | | | | | |
| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP Alignment |
| 3.1 Promote awareness and participation for the basic interoperable radio training curriculum available online | SWIC | Q1 CY 2023 | On Target | 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 | On Target | 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"> Regular rollcalls on interoperability channels/talk groups Parking lot drill (TXSWIC webpage) Regular communications drill integrated with annual required training | SWIC, COGs, local entities | Ongoing | Approaching Target | 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) | On Target | 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 | Off Target | All COGs and tribes conduct multi-agency exercise every two years, verified through FG report | 3.1 |
| 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 | Off Target | Data uploaded and maintained in the CASM database, verified through FG report | 3.3 |
| Communications Coordination | | | | | |
| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP 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 | On Target | At least one SWIC presentation or message to TxICC annually, RICC's 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 | Off Target | 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 | Ongoing | Approaching Target | NG9-1-1 and Alerts & Warnings updates provided to stakeholders annually at minimum, generally at TxICC annual conference. SWIC Office, CSEC Executive Director and TDEM Alerts and Warning Unit Chief meet quarterly | 4.2, 4.3 |

| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP Alignment |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|
| 4.4 Update RSOPs as needed; distribute to all local, tribal, and mutual aid responder agencies in the region | COGs, Tribes | January, biannually | Off Target | Updated RSOPs uploaded to HSIN, verified through FG report | 4.2 |
| 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 | On Target | 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 | Approaching Target | Increase enrollment by 2% over 2-year period | 4.3 |

Technology and Infrastructure

| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP Alignment |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 5.1 Transition public safety voice radio systems to comply with Project 25 (P25) standards for statewide interoperability | COGs, Tribes, SWIC | Ongoing | Approaching Target | 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 | Approaching Target | 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 | Approaching Target | 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 | Ongoing | On Target | 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 | Approaching Target | Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports | 5.3 |
| 5.6 Evaluate and implement Bridge4Public Safety | DPS, TDEM, state agencies, local entities | Q1 CY 2024 | Approaching Target | Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports | 5.3 |

Cybersecurity

| Initiatives | Owners | Date | Status | Metric | NECP Alignment |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---|----------------|
| 6.1 Promote a cybersecurity awareness month webinar series | SWIC | October, annually | Off Target | 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 | On Target | 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 | On Target | 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 | Off Target | Select platform | 6.3 |
| 6.5 Implement common collaboration platform | SWIC, TxICC | February 2025 | Off Target | Go-live of platform | 6.3 |

APPENDIX B: Voice Radio Communications Interoperability Levels Across Texas

THE TEXAS STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY MATURITY MODEL

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model is based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. The model outlines the evolution from the lowest level to the highest level of communications interoperability. The map of Texas on page 14 highlights the 2024 status of each county regarding its level of interoperability in the "Voice Technology" lane of the model. The information was obtained directly from the 24 COGs and three Federally Recognized Tribes in Texas through a survey submitted to TxDPS.

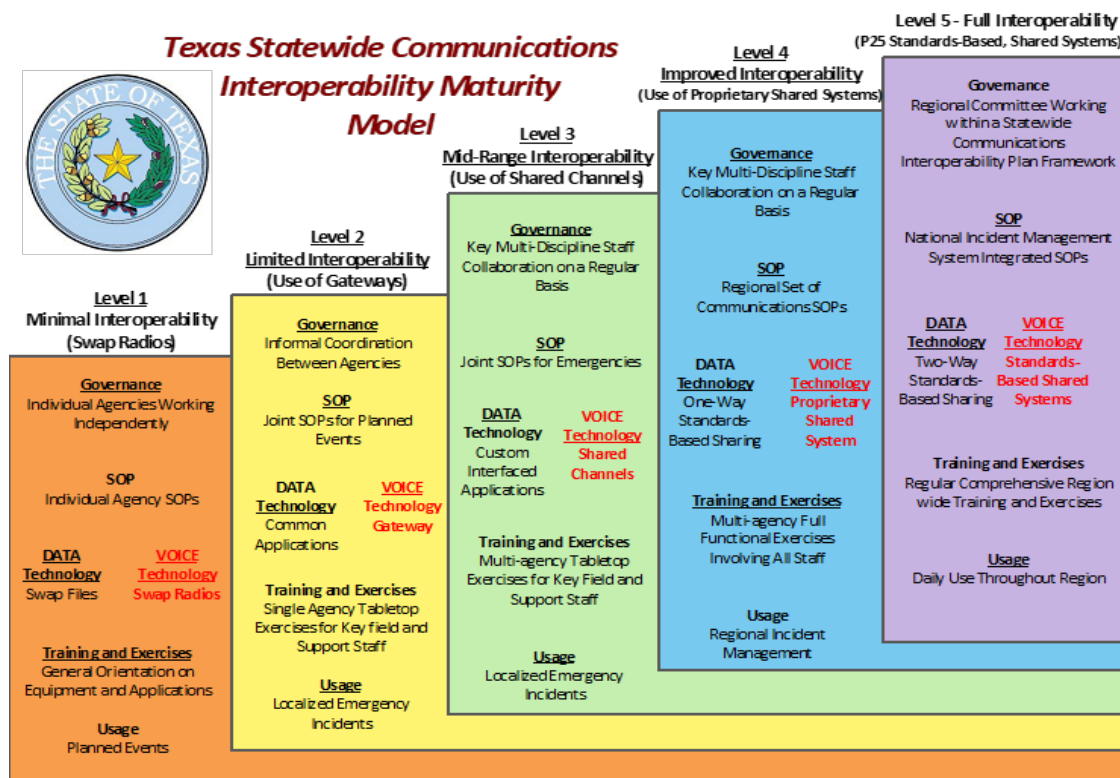
Level One = The lowest level of interoperability, accomplished by physically exchanging radios to communicate with other agencies (swap radios).

Level Two = Minimal interoperability, accomplished using gateway devices (electronically interconnecting two or more disparate radio systems through gateways).

Level Three = Mid-range interoperability using shared channels.

Level Four = Improved interoperability using shared proprietary system(s).

Level Five = The optimal level of full interoperability using P25 standards-based shared systems to communicate with other agencies.

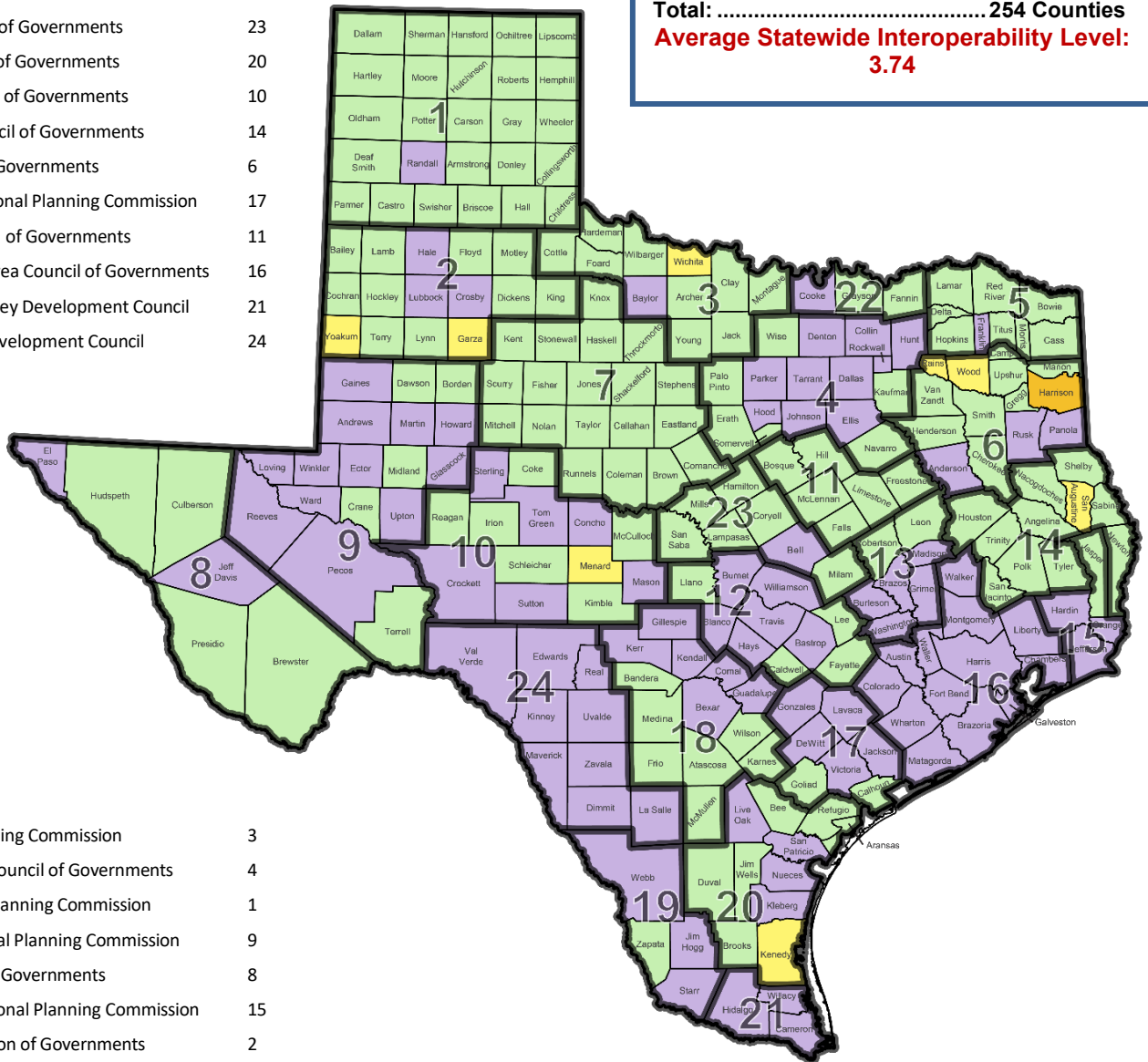


2024

Texas Statewide Voice Communications Interoperability Color-Coded Map by COGs and Counties

| COG Region Name | # |
|---|----------|
| Alamo Area Council of Governments | 18 |
| Ark-Tex Council of Governments | 5 |
| Brazos Valley Council of Governments | 13 |
| Capital Area Council of Governments | 12 |
| Central Texas Council of Governments | 23 |
| Coastal Bend Council of Governments | 20 |
| Concho Valley Council of Governments | 10 |
| Deep East Texas Council of Governments | 14 |
| East Texas Council of Governments | 6 |
| Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission | 17 |
| Heart of Texas Council of Governments | 11 |
| Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments | 16 |
| Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | 21 |
| Middle Rio Grande Development Council | 24 |

| Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model Color Codes: | |
|---|---------------------|
| Level One (least interoperable) | 1 County |
| Level Two | 8 Counties |
| Level Three | 146 Counties |
| Level Four | 0 Counties |
| Level Five (most interoperable) | 99 Counties |
| Total: | 254 Counties |
| Average Statewide Interoperability Level: | 3.74 |



| | |
|---|----|
| Nortex Regional Planning Commission | 3 |
| North Central Texas Council of Governments | 4 |
| Panhandle Regional Planning Commission | 1 |
| Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission | 9 |
| Rio Grande Council of Governments | 8 |
| South East Texas Regional Planning Commission | 15 |
| South Plains Association of Governments | 2 |
| South Texas Development Council | 19 |
| Texoma Council of Governments | 22 |
| West Central Texas Council of Governments | 7 |

APPENDIX C: 2024 Focus Group Survey Results

The Focus Group Survey was available for COGs, Tribes, and State Agencies from December 2024 through March 2025 to report on activities accomplished in 2024. 22 of 24 Texas COGs, all 3 Tribes, and the Combined State Agencies completed the 2024 Focus Group Survey.

*Note: The results below reflect answers from Texas COGs and 3 Tribes only

Governance

- 84% of Texas COGs and Tribes reported they have an active committee that meets to serve as the Regional Interoperable Communications Committee
- 43% of the committees meet as needed
- 57% of the committees meet at least annually.
- 40% of Texas COGs have updated contact lists with the SWIC Office.
- 84% of Texas COGs reported having met with regional decision-makers or elected officials to promote interoperability and support sustainable funding for communications.

Planning and Procedures

- 88% of Texas COGs participated in a public event displaying communications equipment.
- 68% of COGs and Tribes have updated or reviewed their RICP within the last five years.

Training, Exercises, and Evaluation

- 84% of COGs and Tribes participate in regularly scheduled drills using interoperable communication.
- 84% of COGs and Tribes reported participating in a multi-agency exercise.
- 88% of COGs and Tribes reported participating in an exercise or event that employed mobile communications assets as part of the exercise.
- 52% of COGS and Tribes reported agencies are using broadband applications daily.
- 56% of COGs and Tribes have designated a Communications Unit point of contact.
- 8% of COGs and Tribes have updated assets and equipment in the CASM database.

Communications Coordination

- 44% of COGs and Tribes reported updating their Regional SOP in the last three years.

Technology and Infrastructure

- COGs and Tribes report that P-25 standards have been adopted for communications infrastructure and subscriber equipment.
 - 64% report that greater than 90% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.
 - 28% report that 50-90% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.
 - 0% report that 25%-50% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.
 - 8% report that Less than 25% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.

- COGs and Tribes report that P-25 radios have been programmed in compliance with the TSICP.
 - 60% report that 90-100% of their agencies have programmed radios to the TSICP.
 - 36% report that 50-90% of their agencies have programmed radios to the TSICP.
 - 0% report that 25-50% of their agencies programmed radios to the TSICP.
 - 4% report that less than 25% of their agencies programmed radios to the TSICP.
- COGs and Tribes report that many agencies have executed the TSICP MOU.
 - 40% report that 90-100% of their agencies have executed the MOU.
 - 20% report that 50-90% of their agencies have executed the MOU.
 - 28% report that 25-50% of their agencies have executed the MOU.
 - 12% report that less than 25% of their agencies have executed the MOU.
- COGs and Tribes report that agencies are generally part of a Regional Radio System.
 - 64% report that their agencies are generally part of a Regional Radio System.

Cybersecurity

- COGs and Tribes report that only a few agencies are conducting Cybersecurity Threat Assessments.
 - 20% report that 90-100% of their agencies have done assessments.
 - 40% report that 50-90% of their agencies have done assessments.
 - 20% report that 25-50% of their agencies have done assessments.
 - 20% report that less than 25% of their agencies have done assessments.
- COGs and Tribes indicate that Land Mobile Radio, Broadband Applications, 9-1-1/CAD, Alerts and Warnings, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and IT Infrastructure are technologies included in cybersecurity threat assessments.
- COGs and Tribes report implementation of multi-factor authentication on broadband applications.
 - 20% report that 90-100% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
 - 32% report that 50-90% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
 - 16% report that 25-50% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
 - 32% report that less than 25% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
- COGs and Tribes report agencies have developed Cybersecurity Incident Action Plans.
 - 16% report that 90-100% of their agencies have developed plans.
 - 28% report that 50-90% of their agencies have developed plans.
 - 32% report that 25-50% of their agencies have developed plans.
 - 24% report that less than 25% of their agencies have developed plans.

2024 Capability Gaps reported during the COG and Tribe Focus Group survey:

Funding remains the number one gap indicated in the Focus Group survey.

- Most COGs report that agencies lack sufficient funds to purchase P25 infrastructure such as towers, repeaters, connectivity, and generators.
- Consistent funding is needed to adequately purchase or replace P25 subscriber equipment for most smaller agencies.
- Coverage gaps indicated that additional tower sites are still needed in most COGs.
- Interoperable communications equipment for VFDs and Rural EMS agencies lack funding.
- PSAPs require funding for console and radio upgrades.

Cybersecurity

- Compared to last year's report, a slight improvement has been made. Many agencies are not conducting Cyber Threat Assessments nor developing Cyber Incident Action Plans.
- Implement a Federated Identity, Credentialing, and Access Management (ICAM) system to enable data interoperability.

Training and Exercises

- Funding for regional exercises and training is needed.
- Many RICPs will need to be updated in the next two years.
- One COG reported a need for Tactical Dispatch instruction.
- One COG reported the need for a regional SOP for interoperability.
- One Tribe reported the need for an SOP for interoperability.

Regional Radio Systems

- Funding is required to join and operate most regional radio systems. Due to the monthly user costs, there is continued resistance to joining existing systems.
- Cities and Counties continue to purchase their own core system and bypass the existing regional system, causing core equipment redundancies and funding inefficiencies.
- The ability of agencies to have interoperable communications using broadband information-sharing applications continues to be a growing gap.