



SWIC

Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator

TxICC Strategic Planning Conference
11/18/25

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

Or.....



TxICC Monthly - November 2025

Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition 2025 Strategic Planning Conference

November 18, 2025
The Bevy Hotel Boerne
101 Herff Road
Boerne, TX 78006

We are excited to announce the date for the TxICC 2025 strategic planning conference being held at the Bevy hotel in Boerne. Registration will start at 7:30 am with the conference beginning at 8:00 am. Further information will be sent out in the near future.



TxICC and SWIC Office Releases:



- Texas Report on Interoperability to the Texas Legislature released on 9/15/25
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/interoprpt.pdf>
- Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) updated on 7/13/23
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/texasscip.pdf>
- Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP) revised 9/1/24
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/tsicpMOU.pdf>

Strategic Advisory Groups



Join a SAG Today!

Broadband SAG

Encryption SAG

RoIP SAG

System of Systems SAG

TIFOG SAG

TSICP SAG

Broadband PTT SAG

Deployable Trunked System SAG

TAK SAG

Contact us at txswic@dps.texas.gov



Radio ID's and Encryption:



- SWIC office has assumed responsibility for coordinating the “5 Million” ID’s for State and Federal partners
- SWIC office is responsible for coordination of CKR/KEY ID’s for encryption
- Encryption working group formed and tasked with:
 - Developing a plan for future coordination
 - Developing a plan to migrate agencies to AES (Advanced Encryption Standard)

Radio ID's and Encryption:



- SWIC office is no longer coordinating new CKRs for ADP/ARC4 or DES
- Agencies requesting encryption keys that will be shared with outside agencies will be directed to an existing regional or federal shared key
- New CKR/KID's should be for internal agency use only
- Trunked Radio System managers should consider using a Federal shared key for System Level Patch Key and on Interoperability Channels

Team Awareness Kit (TAK)



Team Awareness Kit is a suite of situational awareness tools that puts your teammates and resources on the same map. With TAK, your team can more efficiently communicate, collaborate with other agencies, and quickly navigate to a target.

[TAK Manager](#)

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Learn more about TAK at 10:00



Bridge4PS is a secure mobile and desktop communications and data sharing app designed specifically for first responders to communicate in real-time across teams, departments, agencies, and jurisdictions.

Niki Papazoglakis, Founder and CEO will have a presentation on Bridge4PS at 1:00

www.bridge4ps.com



What is DPS doing to promote and enhance the usage of Bridge4PS?

- DPS is sponsoring two (2) Statewide Channels that will not count toward the 3-channel limit for basic subscribers
- DPS is sponsoring Pro licenses for all Active State Credentialled COMU personnel
- DPS is sponsoring Pro licenses for TxICC SEC Delegates and COG Planners

Instructors Needed!



Are you a credentialed COMU member?

Texas is in need of Instructors for COML, COMT, RADO, INTD, INCM, and AUXCOMM

If you are interested, send an email to TXSWIC@dps.Texas.gov

We are planning several COMU TtT courses next year.



Save the Date!
2026 Central States
Communications Exercise

September 22-25, 2025

Downstream Casino Resort
69300 East Nee Road
Quapaw, OK 74363

<https://central-states-comms.org>

Texas Radio Rodeo

Provides an opportunity for local first responders to test interoperability and determine needed changes in radio programming and SOP's to enhance coordination and communication efforts

Provides an opportunity to test regional responder interoperability

Designed to be a Table-Top exercise to assess the participants ability to effectively conduct radio operations, evaluate coordination efforts to communicate with local, regional, state, and federal partners, and share real-time related preparation, response, and recovery solutions

Regions will select a County to be “host” event location

Planned for one exercise per month over the next two years

CAPCOG – December

SPAG – January

RGCOG – February

MRGDC – March

Focus Group and Interoperability Level Surveys



2026 Surveys will open from February 2026 through March 2026.

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

COGs that do not submit a survey will be identified in the 2026 Legislative report

Focus Group Survey

Asks questions about how well the region plans and works together

- Committee Meetings
- SOPs
- RICPs – Many are at or near 5 years and need to be refreshed

Does the region participate in communications drills and exercises?

Opportunity to recognize regional successes and accomplishments

Focus Group Survey

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!

Assesses Cybersecurity threats to radio systems

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

2025 Focus Group Survey Results

Complete results can be reviewed in the 2025 Legislative Report

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

Governance:

84% of COGs reported they have an active Interop Communications Committee (last year: 73%)

84% of COGs reported they have met with regional decision-makers to promote interoperability

Planning and Procedures:

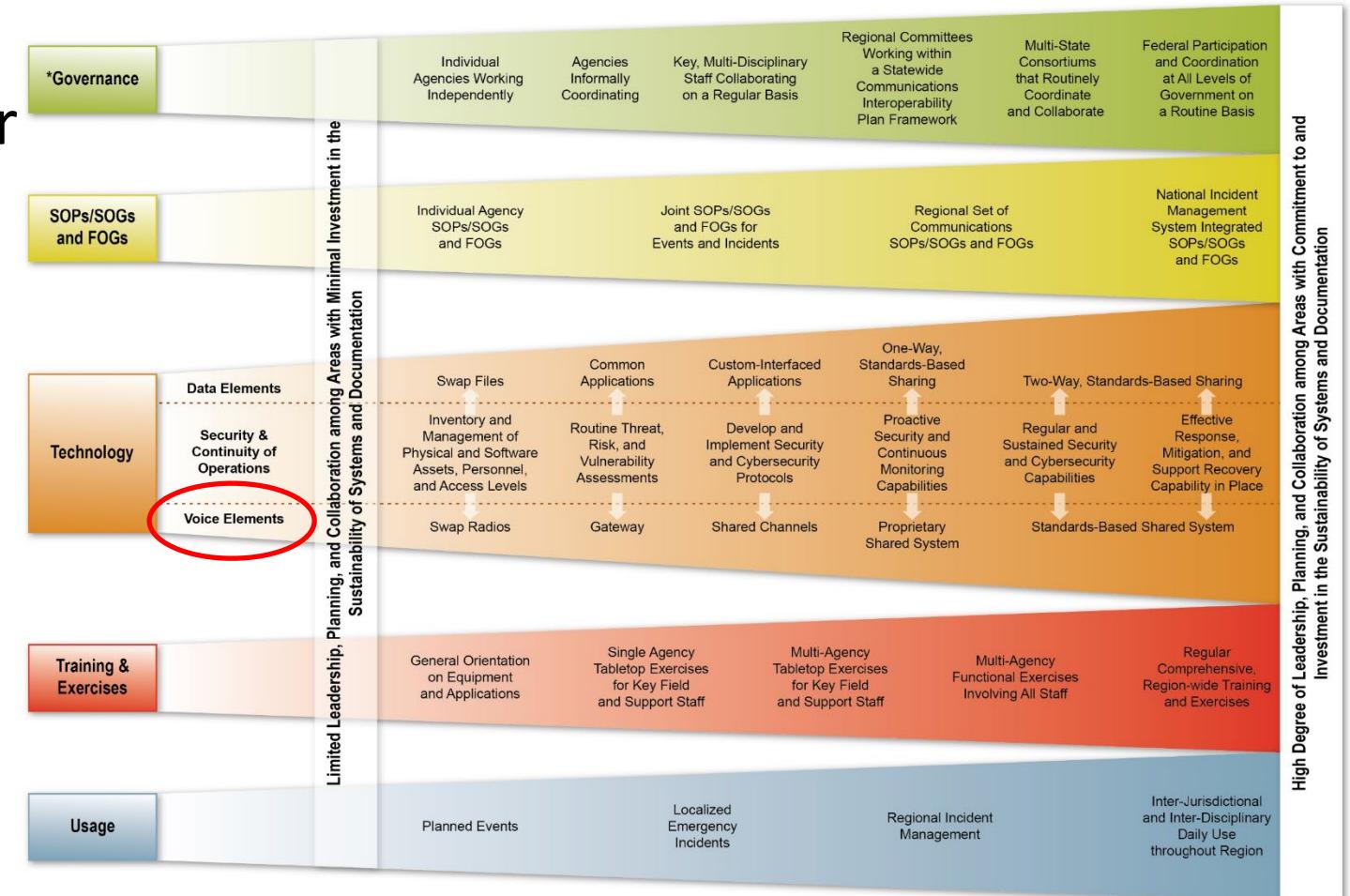
88% of Texas COGs participated in a public event displaying communications equipment. (last year: 56%)

68% of COGs and Tribes have or are in the process of updating their RICP within the last five years (last year: 60%)

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 – 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

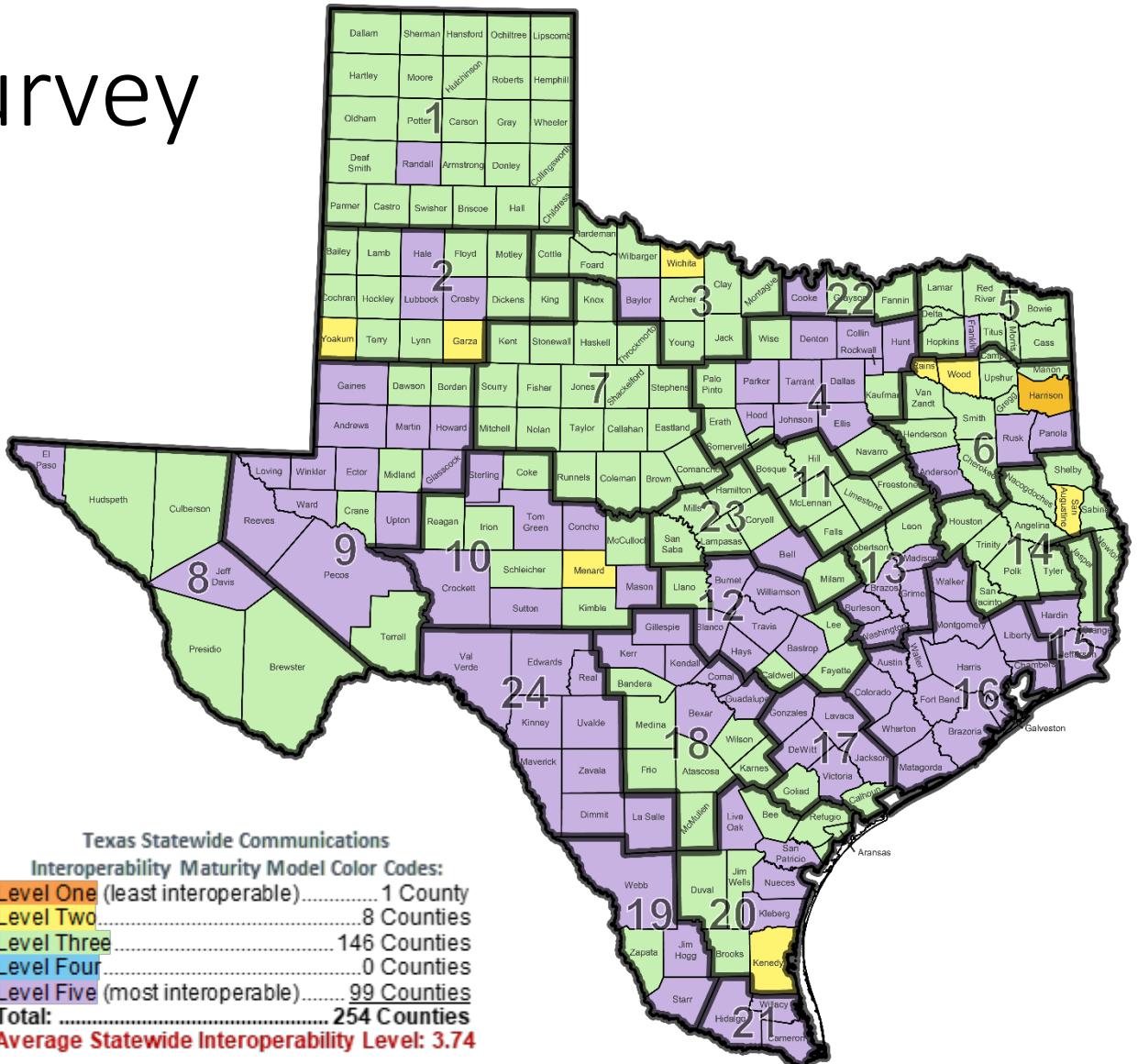
Interoperability Level Survey

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 last year

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 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
 - 2024 the state reported an interoperability level of 3.74 (down from 3.76 in the 2023 report)
- Knowing a counties' current Interoperability Level and how a grant project might improve that level could be important in a grant application
- No counties reported Level 4 Interoperability in 2024



Courtesy City of Fort Worth Police Department



Courtesy Firefighter Gerald Finley, Port Neches Fire Department



Courtesy Clint Thetford, Lubbock County

Public Safety Radio Basics 101

Date: October 2022
Version: 1.0

Public Safety Radio Basics 101

- Link on MyTCOLE 3.0
<https://tcledds.tcole.texas.gov/mytcole/Login>
- The course offers 4 hrs CE credit
- Link on Preparingtexas.org:
[T-RES110: Radio Statewide Interoperability](#)

GETS/WPS

FREE!

**Priority Telecommunications Services allow your
call to overcome network disruptions:**



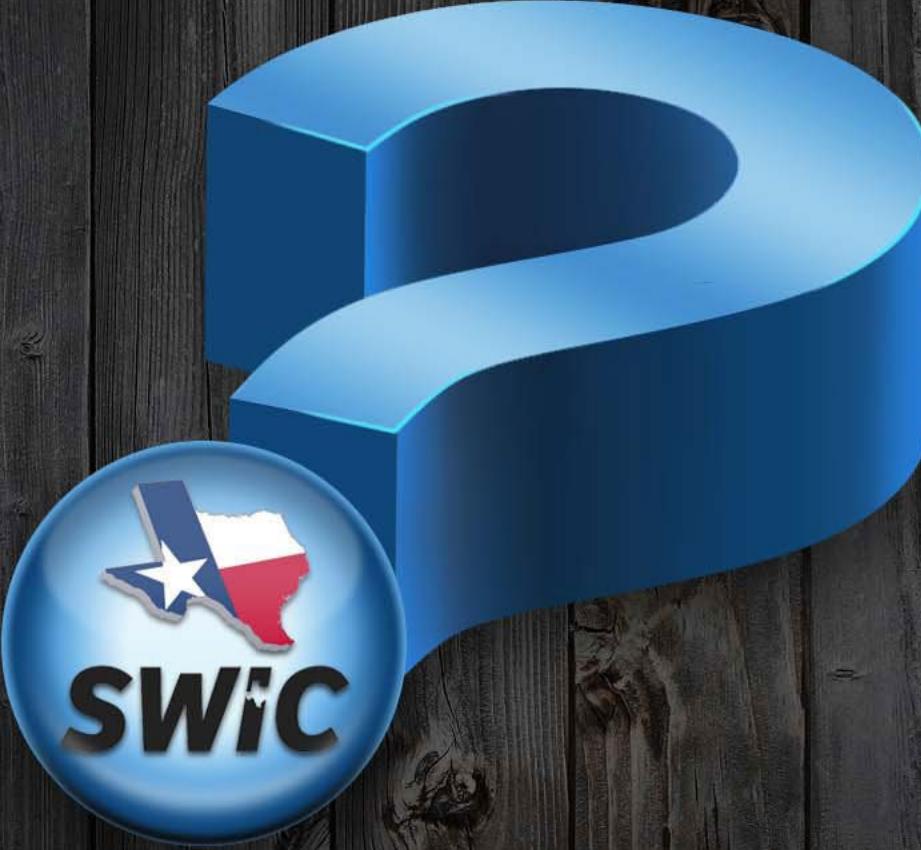
SWIC Office 2025 Activity Report

The 2024 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)

TxICC Working Group meetings (Encryption, COMU, Broadband PTT) – January
Southwest Border Communications Working Group, Sierra Vista, Arizona – January
Regional Council meetings – NCTCOG, HOTCOG, WCTCOG, AACOG, DETCOG – January
Regional Council meetings – RIOCOG, ETCOG, PBRPC, CAPCOG, GVCOG, MRGDC, - March
IWCE, Las Vegas, Nevada – March
South Texas All-Hazards Conference – McAllen – March
Regional Council meetings – CVCOG, STDC, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo - March
Mid-Coast Hurricane Conference – Victoria – April
Regional Council meetings – SPAG – April
McCulloch County Communications Meeting – May
COML Course – Arlington - May
PSCR 5X5 – Bellevue, WA – June
TAK event – Wyoming – June
Southeast Texas MTUG – June
DFW Mobile Command Post Rally - June
SCIP workshop – Florence - July
APCO/MTUG – Baltimore, Maryland – July
Red River COMU Boot Camp – Durant, OK – October

Future planned events:

TEXCON – Florence – December
Radio Rodeo – Bastrop - December



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