

State of Maine Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

October 2011 #33

State's Interoperability Vision

The State of Maine will have a firmly established, formally managed and maintainable communications environment, based on technology, protocols, training and usage, that will provide seamless communications capability to all emergency management, first responder, and response support organizations at the local, regional and State levels, enabling them to exchange information via voice and data means, as required by standard NIMS response procedures, to provide effective, coordinated and timely all hazards response to our citizens.

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP)

BAE Systems to Manage Maine BIDP Project

Washington County has selected BAE Systems to manage the day to day aspects of the new Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP) grant program. Washington County was awarded \$3.9 million earlier this year to improve communications coverage, systems, and protocols along the Maine – Canadian border. Washington, Aroostook, Somerset, Franklin and Oxford Counties, Passamaquoddy Nation partners, and New Brunswick and Quebec agencies will see increased capability in border areas, including a proposed new US – Canada Interoperability Channel which can be used by agencies on both sides of the border to improve daily and mutual aid communications.

Through a competitive selection process, Washington County contracted with BAE Systems to conduct the planning, frequency coordination, and overall implementation of the BIDP grant. The primary project manager will be Frank Kirk from BAE's Public Safety Consulting Group. Mr. Kirk and his associates have already made multiple visits with BIDP stakeholders to assess their needs and intended outcomes from the BIDP project. The BIDP program will be underway until mid-2014.



MEMA releases DVD in regards to Narrowbanding:

In September, 2010 MEMA released a DVD "Narrowband Will You Be Ready" that explains the Narrowbanding dilemma facing all of us. If you would like a copy of this DVD please contact Steven Mallory at (207) 624-4476

Border Interoperability Guide (BIG)

Rough drafts have been distributed to the Counties along the border for revisions and corrections, once these are returned the B.I.G. will be reviewed one last time and then off to print. Thanks for all those that have contributed to this epic field operation guide.



CONOPS & PL Tones

It is very important that when you program your radio to **not** program these frequencies with private line (PL) tones. The purpose of CONOPS is to have simple interoperable channels that all agencies will recognize and utilize at all times.

COOP DISPATCH WORKSHOP

On behalf of the State of Maine, representatives from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) will be facilitating the second in a series of two workshops to help develop Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and public safety dispatch centers statewide. The first of these workshops was held June 15, 2011. The follow-on workshop will be held on October 13, 2011. A limited numbers of seats are still available. To participate in this workshop, please RSVP to Steven Mallory, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, Maine Emergency Management Agency, by phone at 207-624-4476, or via email to Steven.Mallory@maine.gov



COMMUNICATION UNIT LEADER (COML)

MEMA recently held a Communications Unit Leaders Type III training course. The (COML) as defined by the Department of Homeland Security is a person that, "Plans and manages the technical and operational aspects of the communications function during an incident or event. We can proudly state that we have ten new Communication Unit Leaders and four new Instructors. If you would like more information in becoming a Communications Unit Leader please contact Steven Mallory at (207) 624-4476 or email at Steven.mallory@maine.gov

STATE OF MAINE RECOGNIZED COML'S

To be considered as a recognized COML the candidate must possess:

1. A public safety communication background with exposure to field operations; this

experience should be facilitated by the authority that supervised the student.

2. Fundamental public safety communications technology, supervisory and personnel management skills. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Knowledge of local communications and communications systems, frequencies and spectrum, technologies;
 - Knowledge of local topography;
 - Knowledge of system site locations; regional, state, and local Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans, if available;
 - Communications and resource contacts; and
3. Completion of the following training courses -
 -
 - COML Unit Leader Type III Training (COML)
 - Maine Interoperable Communications and CONOPS Training
 - COML Task book Signed by Local or County Official
 - IS-700, IS-800b, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300

Upon successful completion of the required prerequisite criteria, candidates must be recommended by their respective County Emergency Management Agency and then forwarded to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator to obtain recognition from the State of Maine

Aroostook Mobile Tower Assists Vermont

The mobile tower stationed with Aroostook County EMA was recently transported to Vermont by the Maine Department of Transportation to assist with recovery efforts from Tropical Storm Irene.

While Maine saw only moderate impact from Irene, Vermont was severely impacted statewide. Under the Emergency Management



Assistance Compact (EMAC), Maine DOT sent 150 personnel and over 100 vehicle assets to Vermont to assist with road and bridge damage assessments, emergency reconstruction, and other activities. Maine DOT was operating from two headquarters locations in northern and southern Vermont, and requested to use Aroostook's mobile tower to supplement their own communications capabilities. The asset was purchased using 2007 PSIC Grant funds and is a component of the State Technology Reserve mandated through the PSIC program. Maine DOT owns a similar mobile tower of their own.

Do you know someone that wants to receive the SCIP Newsletter? It is simple to do, just follow this link to be put on the distribution list

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Contribute to the SCIP Newsletter?

If you would like to contribute articles for upcoming SCIP Newsletters to highlight innovative practices in your respective counties and/or areas, please contact Steven.mallory@maine.gov

COUNTDOWN TO MANDATORY NARROWBANDING

DAYS HRS

446 12

ARE YOU READY?...



Narrowband Conversion: It is *extremely* important when you narrowband your radios that you coordinate with your neighboring communities and also include State and County agencies. This lessens the requirement for you and other agencies having to reprogram your radios three (3) or four (4) times. Coordination with all your partners also alleviates the extra costs of reprogramming the radios as well. Programming your radios at the same time also minimizes the potential for loss of communication with other responding agencies, because both agencies would be operating on narrowband channels. If you would like more information and best practices on coordinating Narrowbanding, please contact the SWIC at 207-624-4476