State of Maine
Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Bi-Monthly Update –December 2011 #34

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.

Maine Emergency Preparedness Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAINE PREPARES
maineprepares.com

4th Annual

Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference

Augusta Civic Center

Tuesday & Wednesday • April 24 - 25, 2012

Hosted by: Maine Emergency Management Agency, International Association of Emergency Managers Region 1, State Emergency Response Commission and Maine Association for Local Emergency Managers

Partner with Over 400 • 1st Responders • Government Officials • Emergency Managers • Business Leaders Educators • Health & Human Services Providers • Faith-Based Leaders • Private, Non-Profit Organizations

Register online begining January 25, 2012 and

Visit www.maineprepares.com/conference for updates and registration instructions.

Don't miss this two day learning and networking experience with preparedness partners and exhibitors.

COMMUNICATION UNIT LEADER (COML) CLASS

January 3rd-January 5th

Target Audience: **The COML Course is targeted for all local, regional, state and federal cross disciplinary emergency response professionals with communication skills background. Certain prerequisites do apply, call for additional information.**

- ***Course Location:*** *The course will be held at the Hampden Public Safety Building, Hampden, Maine. The Public Safety building is located 106 Western Avenue Hampden, Maine. Class will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch and breaks will be provided. Backfill/Overtime for NIMS compliant agencies and communities as well as lodging are available. Contact MEMA Training Staff for details. All other expenses are the responsibility of the student.*

For further information or to register, please contact Steven Mallory at MEMA. All applications should be emailed/faxed via FEMA 75-5 training application form found at:

- **http://www.state.me.us/mema/programs/mema_prog_tr.shtml**

Maine's current status on Narrowbanding Information…

After reviewing the numbers from the FCC, here are some interesting percentages in regards to Maine's preparedness for the Narrowbanding deadline:

- Fixed Transmitters licensed to operate (25 kHz) (Wideband) as of December 2011: **Maine - 17.4% - Nation – 47.98**

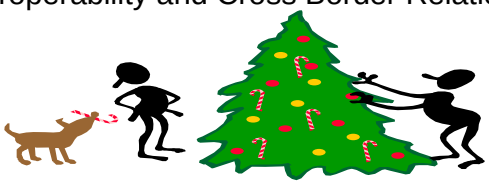
- Fixed Transmitters licensed to operate (12 .5 kHz) (Narrowband) as of December 2011: **Maine – 59% - Nation – 29.40%**

So we are well ahead of the National averages, thanks to your efforts! We still have some work to do, but keep up the good work. If you would like to see other States or percentages please contact the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator at MEMA.

MEMA attends the Annual Public Safety Interoperability Workshop

The Fifth Canadian Public Safety Interoperability Workshop – the flagship event of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) - again brought together a broad base of public safety and emergency management practitioners to develop a mutual understanding of the key voice and data interoperability issues facing today's public safety sector. Held from December 5 to 7, 2011 in Ottawa, the nearly 300 delegates came away with real-world insights, practical knowledge, and a common sense approach to moving forward while attending sessions on the hottest interoperability issues facing public safety today and while being "put to work" during extensive break-out sessions.

There was wide-spread agreement that land mobile radio voice interoperability remains a significant area of concern – more must be done to raise awareness about the issue and help mobilize leadership to operationalize impending technological advances. Participants also identified the need to strengthen links between responder community and national research efforts.
MEMA staff attended the workshop and gained new insight into Canadian communication plans, as well as strengthened partnerships with neighbours in New Brunswick, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. Overall, it was a valuable opportunity for Maine to continue to work with Canadians on interoperability and Cross Border Relations.



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.

ARE YOU READY? PLAN NOW FOR NARROWBANDING

COUNTDOWN TO
MANDATORY
NARROWBANDING

DAYS	HRS
376	11

ARE YOU READY?...

Border Interoperability Guide (BIG)

The first edition of the Border Guide is being distributed to the Counties along the borderaa for revisions and corrections. Thanks for all those that have contributed to this epic field operation guide. Please contact the SWIC if you would like to have a copy.

MEMA releases DVD in regards to Narrowbanding:

MEMA still has copies of its DVD "Narrowband Will You Be Ready" that explains the Narrowbanding dilemma facing all of us. If you would like a copy DVD please contact Steven Mallory at (207) 624-4476

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

Signup for the SCIP Newsletter

Maine is the first State to complete the NECP Goal #2 reports

The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) has recognized Maine as having one of the most proactive and effective approaches to NECP Goal #2 (noting that Maine was the first state in the Region to complete). During the December National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) meeting in Atlanta, OEC asked the SWIC to present on our NECP Goal #2 process and how Maine was able to achieve outstanding results. Maine assisted other States to help them achieve 100% reporting. Comments made after Maine's presentation were that it was an immense help to other states, and a big nationwide highlight for Maine. Thanks to all the Counties for supplying the data…

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS