State of Maine
Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

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.

MSCOMMNET STATUS:

Narrowbanding of State of Maine Repeaters for Public Safety Land Mobile Radios

Like all radio users, the State of Maine is required to comply with new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) narrowband requirement not later than January 1, 2013. This applies to all levels of public safety – municipal, county, state, tribal, and federal agencies. http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html

Interagency Coordination. The narrowbanding mandate necessitates coordination among all partners to ensure continued interoperability. All FCC Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio Licensees operating in VHF (150-174) and UHF (421-512) are impacted by the FCC mandate. Agencies must complete their administrative licensing and programming of radios in compliance with this mandate before the FCC deadline.

State Government's MSCommNet Project. The Executive Branch of Maine State Government (SOM) is also unifying and modernizing its public safety radio communications system in a project known as the **M**aine **S**tate **Com**munications **Net**work "MSCommNet". The date for completion of the State's MSCommNet project is 2013, which coincides with the year of the FCC narrowbanding mandate.

State Narrowbanding plans for 2012. The State plans to conduct a two-phased implementation of its new system. The first phase is in June through September 2012, during which the State will issue new narrowband mobile and portable radios to State users, and also **switch existing repeaters to narrowband operation.** The general plan is published on the MEMA website.

Schedule of State Repeaters being switched to narrowband mode.

- **State Police Zone 4/ Houlton**
  - Repeaters@ #9 Mountain - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ Patten - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ Musquash Mtn - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ Cyr Mtn - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ New Sweden - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ St Francis - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@ Houlton - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@Ashland - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@Clear Lake - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters@Priestly - now operating in narrowband

- **State Police Zone 3/Orono**
  - Repeaters @ Cadillac - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters @ Cooper - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters @ Harris - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters @ Passadumkeag - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters @ Spencer - pending
  - Repeaters @Tunk - pending
  - Repeaters @ Old Town - now operating in narrowband
  - Repeaters @ Orono - now operating in narrowband

- o Repeaters @ Big Moose - now operating in narrowband

- **State Police Zone 2/Augusta**
  - o Repeater @ Huntoon - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Union - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Eaton - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Blynn - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Sugarloaf - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Hatchet - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Augusta - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ Bolton Hill - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeater@ Mt Blue - pending
  - o Repeater@ West Kennebago - pending

- **State Police Zone 1/Gray**
  - o Repeaters@ Ossipee - pending
  - o Repeaters@ Spruce - pending
  - o Repeaters@ Gray **-** pending
  - o Repeaters@ Winn Mtn- pending
  - o Repeaters@ Pleasant Mtn - now operating in narrowband
  - o Repeaters@ York - pending
- *Permission from MSCommNet Website*

Check MSCommNet website for updates at:
http://www.maine.gov/oit/services/radio/radioservices/narrowbanding/index.html

Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

Overview
- Set in motion by Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, enacted Feb 22, 2012
- Creates the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)
- FirstNet to establish a nationwide public safety broadband network (PSBN) based on a single national network architecture

- Reallocates 700 MHz D block spectrum to public safety
- Deficit neutral;
  - Funded through proceeds from spectrum auctions through FY 2022
  - Network is sustained long term through user fees
- Identifies $7B for construction of the system and $135M for State implementation planning purposes
- Outlines a number of initial milestones

Important Items
- Initially intended for data communications based on LTE, i.e. a Radio Access Network (RAN)
- Not a replacement for traditional push-to-talk public safety land mobile radio systems

First Responder Network Authority
- FirstNet is an independent authority within NTIA
- Headed by a 15 member board;
  - 12 individuals appointed by Secretary of Commerce
  - Ensure geographic and regional representation
  - Ensure rural and urban representation
- Holds a single public safety 700 MHz wireless broadband license
- Responsible to ensure the design, construction, deployment and operation of the PSBN, in consultation with State and local public safety entities
- Ensure substantial rural coverage

FirstNet Consultation
- Must consult with State and local jurisdictions regarding the distribution and expenditures of any amounts;
  - Construction or access to the core network
  - Placement of towers
  - Coverage areas of the network
  - Adequacy of hardening, security, reliability requirements
  - Local user priority
  - Assignment of priority and selection of entities seeking access to PSBN
  - Training need of local users
- Consultation must occur through the designated single officer or governmental body designated by each State.
- Shall establish a standing advisory committee for public safety

Funding
- NTIA granted borrowing authority not to exceed $2B for the build out of the PSBN and $135M for State implementation planning
- NTIA borrows the initial funds from the Treasury prior to the deposit of spectrum auction proceeds into the Public Safety Trust Fund (PSTF)
- Order of PSTF funding priority
  - Repayment of borrowed $2B
  - Repayment of borrowed $135M
  - Build out of PSBN to $7B less initial borrowed $2B
  - Public Safety research and development $100M
  - Deficit reduction $20.4B
- PSTF funding targeted to begin in FY 2017 and run through FY 2022

Schedule
- 2/22/12 – Enactment of statute
- 3/23/12 – 30 days/ FCC appoints Technical Advisory Board
- 5/22/12 – 90 days/Technical Advisory Board submits recommendations to the FCC
- 6/21/12 - +30 days/FCC approves recommendations
- 8/20/12 – 180 days/Secretary of Commerce appoints FirstNet Board
- 8/22/12 – 6 months/NTIA establishes requirements for State implementation planning grants
- TBD – FirstNet forms Advisory Committee for Public Safety
- TBD – FirstNet develops RFIs, consults with States, completes RFPs and releases notice
- TBD – States have 90 days after receipt of notice to opt-out

Next Steps
- Stay engaged as the process unfolds
  - Naming of FirstNet Board
  - Issuance of State Implementation Planning Grant funding availability
  - Formation of Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Identify benefits for Maine
  - Reduced wireless data costs
  - Enhanced coverage, bandwidth, capacity
  - Lever for application system access
  - Enhance public access to broadband

New partners and participants, e.g. commercial carriers, utilities

FirstNet Appointees:

Recently, at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Department of Commerce Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank announced the 12 newly-appointed members to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board.

- Tim Bryan, CEO, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative
- Charles "Chuck" Dowd, Deputy Chief, New York City Police Department
- F. Craig Farrill, Wireless telecommunications executive
- Paul Fitzgerald, Sheriff, Story County, Iowa
- Samuel "Sam" Ginn (Chairman), Telecommunications executive
- Jeffrey Johnson, Fire Chief (retired); former Chair, State Interoperability Executive Council, State of Oregon; CEO, Western Fire Chiefs Association
- William Keever, Telecommunications executive (retired)
- Kevin McGinnis, Chief/CEO, North East Mobile Health Services
- Ed Reynolds, Telecommunications executive (retired)
- Susan Swenson, Telecommunications/technology executive
- Teri Takai, Government information technology expert; former CIO, states of Michigan and California
- Wellington Webb, Founder, Webb Group International; former Mayor, Denver, Colorado

These Board members join the three permanent Board members, which include Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Acting OMB Director Jeffrey Zients, and Attorney General Eric Holder. The FirstNet Board is tasked with deploying a nationwide, interoperable, public safety communications network as recommended by the 9/11 Commission in order to resolve communications challenges faced by emergency responders nationwide.

On February 22, 2012, President Obama signed into law the "*Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation*

Act of 2012," which included provisions to fund and govern a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. It also called for the formation of FirstNet as an independent authority within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to create the overarching framework for the network and secure nationwide standards for use and access to the network. The FirstNet Board is also responsible for issuing requests for proposals to build, operate, and maintain the network, and overseeing the contracts with non-federal entities to build, operate, and maintain the network.

The Act directed the Secretary of Commerce to appoint 12 FirstNet Board members, who will serve for staggered, three-year terms. By law, the FirstNet Board represents experts in public safety, technology, network operations, and finance. The Act also requires the Board's inclusion of at least three public safety professionals and at least three members representing the interests of States, localities, tribes, and territories.

Office of Emergency Communications - Case Study:

As part of DHS/OEC efforts to share the progress made by the Nation's emergency response community in enhancing interoperable communications, the DHS Office of Emergency Communications is developing a series of case studies using real-world examples on how training and planning have made a difference in responding to natural disasters and other emergencies. The following link is a case study about how emergency communications training helped North Carolina emergency responders keep communication systems operational during Hurricane Irene in August 2011.
This is only one of several case studies under development, and we welcome your suggestions on other topics. If you have a real-world example that you would like to share, please contact the SWIC at steven.mallory@maine.gov

We appreciate all of the work you do to ensure our emergency communications capabilities help keep our country safe.

DHS Office of Emergency Communications
Case Study_Hurricane Irene_Final-2012.pdf

Communications Unit Leader Course COML (Type III) September 18-20, 2012

The Maine Emergency Management Agency will be conducting the All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) Class on September 18-20 at Jasper's in Ellsworth, Maine.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Identify the functions of the Communications Unit and the duties and responsibilities of the COML.

Arrive at an all-hazards incident properly equipped, gather information to assess the assignment, and begin initial planning activities of a COML.

Plan, organize staff, manage, and demobilize the communications unit in a safe and effective manner to meet the needs of the incident.

Coordinate with the incident sections, appropriate communications personnel (e.g., communications coordinators), and other agencies to assist in accomplishing the overall incident objectives.

Design, order, and ensure the installation and maintenance of all communications systems.

Maintain accountability of assigned communications equipment.

TARGET AUDIENCE: The COML class is targeted for all local, regional, state, tribal and federal cross disciplinary emergency response professionals and coordination/support personnel with a communication background. Students should be from NIMS compliant jurisdictions with the need to obtain COML training.

PRE-COURSE WORK/PRE-REQUISITES: Each student should be familiar with their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TIC Plan) and/or their state/regional/local Communication Plan and communication assets. You should have completed IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, IS-700, and IS-800 prior to

attending this course. Proof of completion of these courses must be provided upon application.

LOCATION: The course will be held on September 18-20 at Jasper's Restaurant Conference Room on High St. (Rt1/3) in Ellsworth. Classes will run from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Lunch and breaks will be provided; lodging is available upon qualification please contact MEMA training for prior approval. All other expenses are the responsibility of the student.

Applications will be accepted via FEMA 119-25-1 training application form available on the MEMA website and emailed or faxed to Mike Grant or Steven Mallory.

Maine Emergency Management Agency
72 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0072
(800) 452-8735
(207) 624-4460
Fax: (207) 287-3178

Radio Pool

MEMA has purchased over $700,000 worth of radios to distribute to the Counties. These radios are being distributed to first responder agencies to help meet the FCC Narrowband mandate set for January 1st, 2013. The new radios are intended to replace older radio models which are unable to be converted to narrowband mode.

Totals:

Icom – 30 mobiles, 30 portables

Motorola – 243 mobiles, 421 portables, and 86 base stations

Kenwood – 373 mobiles, 549 portables, and 409 pagers

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.

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP)Status

BIDP continues to move forward with tower acquisitions and planning on Exercises for first responders along the border. The week of October 16/18 has been tentatively established as the week for these exercises. Exact locations and times will be provided as soon as all efforts have been coordinated.

ARE YOU READY?

COUNTDOWN TO MANDATORY NARROWBANDING

DAYS   HRS

123   12

ARE YOU READY?...

Border Interoperability Guide (BIG)

The Border Guide (Version 1.0) is available for those that operate in or around the Maine/Canada border. This Guide identifies frequencies, contact numbers, and border crossing sites as well as radio caches strategically placed along the border. Thanks for all those that have contributed to this epic field operation guide. Please contact me if you would like to have a copy. Version 2.0 is anticipated in November 2012.

Signup for the SCIP Newsletter

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

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