

Interoperable Communications Survey

November 2006

Washington State

The purpose of this survey is to provide a snapshot of the status of interoperable communications within each region of the state for the benefit of the Committee on Homeland Security. This survey is being conducted in response to a request by the CHS Chair, Jim Scharf on behalf of the CHS.

Please answer each question to the best of your ability concerning interoperable communications in your HS region.

A. Plan

- 1) Does your region have an interoperable communications plan?
Yes – 5 No – 1 Partial – 2 Have begun – 1
- 2) What date was the plan adopted and by whom?
8/2006, 2005, 2006, pending, 11/2005
- 3) Is the plan County wide or Region wide in scope?
Counties have individual plans – 1, Region wide – 4, county with some region - 1
- 4) What percentage of complete communications interoperability would you estimate is present for your region?
60%, 40%, 30%, 66%, 100%, under 50%, 50%, can't estimate, 85%
- 5) Does your plan include agencies other than emergency management, fire services, and law enforcement, such as PSAPS, hospitals, health department, etc.?
Varies by county – 1, Yes - 8
- 6) Are you working on a plan and when do you expect to complete it?
Yes – target 8/2007, 7/2008, 2008, done -2, no timeline yet - 2, No -2

B. Exercising the Plan

- 1) Have you exercised your interoperable communications plan and when?
Have conducted communications tests – 2, No - 1, yes – 9/2006, 9/2006, projected in 2008, in 2007, 8/2007, test almost daily with regular mutual aid requests

- 2) To what extent would you consider your region capable of interoperability with other regions or jurisdictions outside of your HS region?
Good within UASI counties - 3, Yes - 1, limited - 4, 25%

C. Interoperable Communications equipment.

- 1) What interoperable equipment has your region acquired? Please List.
Portables, mobiles, M.D.T.s, repeaters, towers, portable repeaters, satellite phones, microwave antennas, pager systems, WebEOC, radio transmitters, dispatch terminals, interagency frequencies, ACU-1000 mobile gateway, TRIS (Tri-County Interoperable System), communication vans, 800 MHz radios, mobile operations command center, dispatch consoles, HAM radio stations, cross band repeaters, linked video conferencing, antennas, mobile computer terminals, ICRI, wave, console patching.
- 2) Have you acquired new radios?
Yes - 6, will - 1, No - 1, not much with HS funds - 1.
- 3) Have you acquired new systems?
Yes - WebEOC, tele-health video, SECURES, Mobile Command Vehicle, TRP-1000, wave, ICRI
Yes - Motorola Canopy System (high speed data)
Yes - 6, No - 1
- 4) What equipment do you currently have for interoperable communications?
VHF, UHF, 800 MHz, HAM radios, cross-band repeaters, portable, mobile, satellite phones, video conferencing, antennas, PIER system, mobile computer terminals
- 5) Do you plan to acquire new interoperable communications equipment?
Yes - 3, No - 1, If \$ available - 4
- 7) What impediments are there to your acquisition of the needed interoperable communications equipment?
Funding - 6, None - 1
Cost, frequency availability, narrowband requirements, topographical challenges, additional radio sites.
Some federal agencies are not willing or required to meet local interoperable communications standards.
Regional boundary differences.
Getting the first response agencies to develop a planning capability for communications for each incident.