The background of the page is a faded, grayscale image of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, showing its iconic dome and classical architectural details. At the top of the page, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several wavy, horizontal stripes in red and white, resembling the top portion of the American flag.

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2007
**Feedback Summary
On the
Future of Interoperability in Wisconsin**

*Comments obtained from public safety executives at sessions
held during July and August, 2007.*

September 2007



State of Wisconsin

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**Feedback Summary
On the
Future of Interoperability in Wisconsin
September 17, 2007**

In June, 2007, the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) and the State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) solicited feedback on the Wisconsin State Public Safety Communications System (WSPSC) Plan (adopted September 2006) and proposed Standard Operating Procedures (under consideration for adoption).

Fellow law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical service, emergency management, and regional 911 service executives at a series of meetings focused on capturing key concepts for improving local interoperable communications and setting the direction for the state's communication efforts.

This report compiles responses received in writing and oral statements obtained at four listening sessions held in July and August, 2007 entitled "The Future of Interoperable Communications in Wisconsin." These meetings were held in Madison, Waukesha, Appleton, and Eau Claire. This report reflects our best effort to accurately capture *all comments* that were stated at these sessions. Time constraints at these meeting did not allow for any consensus sampling or peer evaluation of the ideas expressed.

For more information, please visit the State Interoperability Executive Council's website, www.SIEC.wi.gov or call David Spenner at 608-261-7535.

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Feedback Summary On the Future of Interoperability in Wisconsin

Strategic Planning Discussion

Executive Summary - Themes and Findings:

- The move to narrow band operation will become a requirement for more and more agencies as we get closer to 2011. Newly purchased radios will only be narrowband and this will force agencies to convert their existing radio fleet to narrowband. This will complicate interoperability as agencies will need to repeatedly reprogram their radios as adjacent agency systems convert to narrowband. If this re-programming is done haphazardly, agencies may give up, or choose to exist without the ability to monitor adjacent agency channels. Secondly, the high demand for reprogramming could overwhelm local radio service centers and raise service costs. **Pre-planning to regionally convert to narrowband should be explored.**
- Narrowband paging systems that support Fire and EMS agencies will also grow as an issue. Planning for migration should occur. **Policies and procedures for systems that currently page and voice communicate operations on the same frequency should be evaluated.**
- The state wide plan's interoperability concept of VHF and 700/800 MHz trunking integrated together was reviewed and validated. No change in direction, vision, or objections were expressed. **State funding to enhance all public safety agencies and a system for all public safety agencies in the state should be provided.**
- There is great disparity in growth and investment in local public safety communications systems across the State of Wisconsin. **Generally, systems are behind meeting current requirements.**
- The radio over internet protocol (RoIP) interoperability project started by the West Central Interoperability Alliance in 2004 has improved communications conditions in the region. **It is valid as an interim solution along the SAFECOM technology continuum and all/part of it could be a model concept for others.**
- Dispatch centers (public safety answering points) are integral to emergency communications. **Funding, training, and certification/oversight are needed.**
- State-wide planning and leadership are necessary to create interoperable conditions inter-state and inter-region. **Many participants expressed a desire for central leadership that articulates comprehensive short and long term goals. Efforts must be sensitive to regional issues and involve local communities.**

How would you describe your existing level of interoperability?

- Local issue's are due to the Dells, 4 independent PSAP's exist.
- We are split between 2 Counties, has patch capability however it takes over everything– Watertown area/talk groups.
- Dane County is split. City is on 800 MHz however the rest is VHF.
- Grant County is considered fairly good, most is high band, share channels, border issues currently, lack of training on the proper use of the radio's, the need for Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Shorewood Hills is communicating across disciplines.
- Rock County has used OJA funding to work towards an interoperability communications ability, next step is to integrate transit, water etc. departments with the public safety.
- Different answers exist at different levels. There's a learning curve with new systems. Need solutions that will patch together systems allowing them to talk to each other. The state plan is an effort in that direction.
- The metropolitan Milwaukee area needs a common IBRN talk group. Need to be able to share communications across systems and jurisdictions. We need more of these meetings to come to an agreement on how to answer the needs.
- The city of Milwaukee is on a different system.
- Interoperability needs to include common interfaces within the state and between states.
- There's been a lot of effort expended to improve use of systems, especially to first responders. Things are improving.
- (Kenosha) City and county have different systems...presenting unique interoperability challenges. The ACU 1000 isn't used. Lots of dead spots...Help!!!
- (Waukesha) Infrastructure is there but we need to educate end users and the system operators to know how and when to go to these special needs.
- Brookfield. The ability to scan neighboring jurisdictions is limited. Need more talk groups and work together across jurisdictions and disciplines. System changes or patches.
- (Milwaukee Co.) New controllers to be installed soon. Will become a 'smart zone' allowing scanning other systems.
- (Milwaukee Co) Problems with EMS statewide radio frequencies...other means are being used...limits operability and interoperability. Flight for life needs multiple frequencies to communicate with medical facilities to know where to go and treat patient in transit. A lot of work in EMS/Helicopter needed. 90% of ambulances in WI don't have the state required frequencies installed. Private providers are linked with these services and aren't held to the same radio requirements.
- There needs to be clear and firm direction for compliance to existing system requirements and for usage.
- Green Bay/Brown Co: limited. Using 800 trunking system in city and rest of county is on VHF system. Portable gateway was awarded to them but they haven't had a chance to start using it. Room for improvement.
- City of Sheboygan PD: County standpoint pretty good shape, surrounding areas are pretty spotty. Ozaukee Co is on MA/COM and they have an additional base station in Ozaukee Co and a console to console link. Other counties are VHF. Fire Departments are all 800 MHz. They are

- trying to address issues with crossband repeaters. Room for improvement.
- Door Co: situation being different for everyone is a true statement. Door Co stayed in 150 MHz chain after assessment. Both Kewaunee and Door are on____. Duplication to what state is proposing and may cause setbacks. Don't throw baby out with bathwater as try to improve mutual aid.
 - Town of Madison Fire Dept: all 3 bands are utilized. Patching doesn't work very well; there is a delay. Have installed duplicate radios to allow interoperability. It is expensive.
 - Adams Co: very rural county. Everyone reprogrammed radios except for the main fire dept. This has created problems. Has room to improve. Concern is potential to have to reprogram again.
 - "It sucks."
 - 6 towers in Outagamie and each system is on it's own tone. Towers need to be manually selected. He has to switch as he travels and consciously switch in order to communicate. Who can figure out what to switch to besides the chiefs? Went to this system 10 years ago because couldn't afford voting receivers. It is a short term fix but still waiting for next fix. Makes him nervous about SIEC (or any) plan because short-term doesn't always turn out short term. Doesn't want to buy new VHF radios until FOXCOM has made some decisions. At some point grants will run out and locals will have to buy same radios for everyone and radios are expensive. He has not changed from his 8 channel radios yet.
 - Looking at it only from a county perspective limits looking at it from a local level. What happens to those that are on county borders?
 - Lacrosse County – fragmented.
 - Bayfield County – gradual process regarding transition.
 - Douglas County – tremendous growing pains.
 - Clark County – ahead of where we were two years ago, a lot of work. Working together as a group. Keeping sop's up to date, exercising, etc.
 - Wood County – good operability. Working out plans with other agencies. Regionalization will be difficult.
 - Monroe County – Good interoperability.
 - Pierce County – Close proximity to twin cities creates problems.
 - Ashland County – Not a lot of ability to organize agencies as well as a problem with islands.

Why do we need to change and what will happen if we do not?

- We have been lucky since tornados are a real threat today. Funding sources don't want to pay for systems, however tomorrow they will hold us accountable.
- 4 tornados on the ground recently need to think about those kinds of events that have happen.
- Going to narrow banding will force some agencies to finally upgrade. An essential part of the answer is planning for the future. A multi-agency response is real for Wisconsin when talking about Hazmat incident or a tornado.
- Need to address this in small bits to win County Board buy in. This is a hard process to work through with a need to educate many, many people.
- Need to make sure the agencies that are late buy-ins have an ability to catch up with the rest of the group.
- Need to find common ground.
- Home rule is a real issue, some do not want the State or the County telling them what to do.
- Need accountability, enforceable mandates, like NIMS is tying compliance to funding. Rules need to include consequences.
- Training is key.
- A financial incentive is important....to change to a new systemthere's a lot invested in the existing systems and procedures. LEAA as an example that helped bring changes in the 1970's.
- Training should be provided to train people on how to use new equipment, in realistic circumstances, many areas are hurting for training funds. It's important to invest not just in the system, but also in the people who can make it work.
- Exercises are key to building a capacity to deploy and use the new equipment and systems.
- Consultants should be state people (peers from the state and not necessarily always outside experts).
- We should not limit ourselves by falling back on being a 'home rule state'. Let's find ways to make it work.
- State leadership/guidance/rules is needed for what can be used.
- MABAS cards can be developed to work with other agencies that you usually don't operate with. We need to have a common thread that can link you to other agencies. 5 boxes/interdivision available. We need to have available a large number of resources that can be brought in for serious incidents. There is the chance that we won't be able to rely on neighboring areas in cases like a tornado. They will have their own problems so we need to reach outside our local area.
- Getting legislature involved. Funding must be provided.
- Provide alternate sources of funding.
- There is a need for technical advice. How do we apply technical advice?
- If local funding is put into the program there must be measurable results.
- Rural responders are just surviving and it is difficult to justify funding.
- Disappointed in fire service representation in listening sessions. Must be a higher priority from a local perspective.
- State funding provided in MN and MI. If WI does not provide some type of funding the project will never be completed.
- Why purchase now if technology continues to change.

What do we want future interoperable Communication's systems to look like?

- User Friendly
- Interface ability
- Communications across County lines
- Independent
- How long will it last
- Flexible
- Upgrade
- Deployable
- Features
- Open Standards – Architecture
- Cost – Affordable
- Open records concerns
- HIPA issues – encryption in medical communications
- Ability to use neighboring jurisdictions frequencies
- Need for special event frequency, one day police has ability to use the next fire etc.
- Paging issue with fire departments
- Coverage issue
- Voice and paging needs to be split apart
- 2012 all pagers will be replaced
- Paging goes beyond fire...health, police etc.
- Easy to use by the people on the street.
- Realize that federal funding won't always be there. Cost sharing may be needed so municipalities can purchase equipment to conform to the state plan. Low cost initial access to state system.
- Think outside the box...we'll need new and creative solutions to voice and data communications challenges.
- Need lots of communication between each other (decision makers and planners) and the end users.
- Remember Einstein – “The problems of today won't be solved by the same thinking that caused them.”
- Include all forms of communications available and don't limit it to what's commonly used.
- Dispatchers are commonly excluded from this process as planners, contributors or even getting the word once something is decided.
- We need diversify our audiences. While we need to work with the decision makers we should also meaningfully engage the end users, the dispatchers, etc.
- Dispatcher training with scholarships from the state. Often that's not funded at all so training is avoided as being not cost effective.
- Civilian agencies aren't funded at all. Dispatchers require training and money to support the training. The present system where penalty funds are allocated for police training does not include dispatchers.
- Maybe dispatchers should be certified? They're not treated like part of the important work done by first responders. They're not credentialed.
- (comment) SIEC is aware of these concerns and probably will be included in later plans but not in the present state plan. Questions like who should regulate this and how to deal with the home rule dimension of the problem should be dealt with before moving forward. The problem is being worked but is a very complex challenge.
- (responding) PSAP/Center certification is important and essential and should be included in the plan...the needs should be acknowledged.
- Money would help immensely to afford dispatchers and others the opportunity to train.
- Each community should consider its interoperability needs and the preceding discussion should be part of that.

- Associations exist to further the cause and express the needs of dispatchers.
- They need to be easy to use, activate for people in the field.
- Concepts are sound but drop-dead dates in plan are going to be difficult to accomplish. Grant dollars are only going to go so far. Short time frame may not be realistic
- Needs to be overlay to existing system. It will be easier for users to use if is part of existing system that are used to. Need daily use. Would need more training if change system beyond daily use system.
- Need to be more generalized than proprietary and specific. Needs to be something within structure/backbone that allows them to go to NIMS. Needs frequencies that allow for that/allow others to join ones ICS. Need to allow people to create regional system and then state can create statewide by joining regional systems. Doesn't see it happening any other way. Give them common frequencies and let them build intelligent, regional systems. Help them link to other regions then. Pointed to FOXCOM as an example. Don't do anything that limits regional efforts. Example: if they need to do something different than VHF trunk, state plan would limit that. Don't put deadlines, rules, structures that would contradict what regional groups are trying to do.
- The detailed needs of locals is higher than the needs of at the state level. Let it build from local up. Most detail at local level and least detail at state level.
- Northern counties can share base frequencies and operate in 16-18 county area. Weak point is fire depts. Needs to be local representation on SIEC to discuss CAD system PSAP. One CAD system will not bridge those. Example: local level doesn't have as high a priority on trunking system as the state does. Initial response will be by locals, not state agencies. They need interoperability now. Need 109 PSAP in plan. Need 911 representative added to SIEC.
- Detail is not in SIEC plan/concept of trunking.
- There has never been a commitment of funding from state to fund trunking system. Rural areas think current state requirements for portables is silly. They could get good radios for less but are required to adhere to guidelines of grant money.
- _____ - echoes above comment. Thinks governance principles are well founded. Wants to see funds spent well. Only way to get 95% of state covered by portables, is to let groups like FOXCOM work. Wants state to look at these groups and use the small amounts of money necessary to move those groups forward (from bottom up). Doesn't want to see a scattering of tiny amounts of money all over the place. Continue to build up groups working together improving regional responses.
- A lot of this is technically above the level of most of the 800 fire departments. Be sensitive to that.
- Pager issue will be big. Radios are only part of pie.
- Why can't we use text messaging for paging system? Kaun said you can but could create overload on the system though.
- What do you have to do to get dispatch to text message to cell phones? Kaun said there is software that you need to get. SIEC memeber warned against relying on private though because its use in time of emergencies is the same as any citizen.
- Simple to operate.
- Build out Radio over IP.

- State agencies must get their house in order.
- DNR equipment is compatible with State interoperability plan. A lot of volunteer agencies do not know that SIEC exists.
- WI does not have a realistic ending. Method of obtaining goals is not well addressed.
- Counties need to understand interoperability plan.
- Radios that are purchased now must be compatible with future state plans.
- Interoperability is not a high priority with fire service.
- Can additional costs for radio equipment be justified?
- One county actually losing interop until additional money is spent.
- Must build out analog system to accommodate pagers. Digital pagers may be available in the future. Fire service paging is a large issue.

What problems might we encounter?

- Funding
- Government Collaboration
- Training, Exercises
- Change management – expectations
- Volunteer service considerations
- Border problems
- People do not want change
- Making any unfunded mandate.
- Determining which carrot and which stick works for which group.
- Different bands for responders even within the same dispatch center. It stifles interoperability.
- We need to educate local political leaders. These political leaders then need to advocate all the way up the line. Needs that go from bottom on up with political leaders get addressed. Need to convince small towns to participate in this plan/larger idea.
- Problems will be encountered by not getting communication to all the people involved. Need to form regions and regional working groups. Plans should be living breathing documents. Keep building and working on plans so there is continued involvement at local level. Maybe need better strategy for funding.
- If can focus on making regional models work, than the pressure gets put on the state to create connectivity. Politicians won't be able to ignore it if it gets to state level.
- If successful regions are out there, give them support and let others follow them.
- State needs to define what regions look like. May not be achievable short-term. Maybe we should look at other states to see how they addressed regions. Minnesota DOT/metro system.
- Dave Kaun: as regions grow, people are incorporated in MN. Home rule state

issue is a difference between WI and MN.

- WCIA group 10 counties. Did study and formed to get more money. Now they regularly meet to make plans/improve system. Worked with Dave to get frequencies, re-program radios, get repeaters to make their plan happen. Runs on BadgerNet system. 10 county area also paid for dispatch centers in ring or adjacent counties to integrate with their system. Others want to join these 10 counties. Pilot project funded through OJA.
- Asks what is our concept of regions: is it based on de-centralization or on ability of those in area to work on system. Right now seems like a moving target. What are distance limitations of a system? Define what a region is. Needs to be based off something that is objective, like distance limitations.
- Problem is with local officials.
- State must have discussions with local officials.
- Professional organizations must lobby local officials.
- The state must provide more resources to locals.
- The state must place a greater emphasis on regionalization.
- Local, state, and regions must effectively collaborate.
- Consider regional planning that has already addressed interoperability issues.
- Establish priorities for implementation of state plan.
- Locals are not familiar with specific build out plans.
- Local agencies must buy into state plan.
- Federal buy-in to state plan.

Comment Overview

- The following pages represent oral and written comments about “DRAFT 3 of the WSPSCS Standard Operating Procedures and the adopted WSPSCS Technical Plan and Functional Specifications. This feedback was received from session participants and/or advance reviewers of the proposed document.
- Note that not all draft sections received comments.
- At the time of this report and prior to the listening sessions, this draft was available on the website:
www.siec.wi.gov

- 1.2.3 Outreach Sub-Committee have they done anything? Yes, they have in the past
- What about language about system governance and membership? A: Spenner replies 1.3 answers this question in part. No specific method is proposed at this time. It is likely it will be locally driven.
- 1.2.9 I thought voting by proxy was allowed.
- 1.3 references point Milas made earlier about system of systems and regions.

Section 2: No comments Received

Standard Operating Procedures Comments

Section 1: Wisconsin State Public Safety Communications System

- 1.2.6.1 I don't think "Federal Communications Interoperability Coordinators/designees" is a valid or recognizable term, maybe should be changed.
- 1.2.6.2 Badger State Sheriffs Association
- 1.2.6.2 It would be good to add MABAS-Wisconsin to Professional organizations.
- 1.2.6.2 Add Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Wisconsin Chapter.
- Question: Do the Fed's require some of the information? A: Yes, some of the information had to be in the document
- 1.3 Expand Governance of the State Shared Communications Systems

Section 3: Scope- WSPSCS Plan Authority and Applicability to Communities

- 3.1 How will you impose this on local agencies? Need for more definition and what happens if non-compliance? Penalty? Possible limitations – good faith effort?
- Funding has to be connected to this. If there is no compliance, no funding.
- Needs teeth...
- Home rule will be an issue.
- 3.2.1 Second sentence: what is the copied information? Answer: MARC plan has appeared in many plans. The problem is as the original plan is updated, old versions are still out there. Better to reference where to find information than to reproduce it in multiple documents. Intent is to place procedures common to all plans in one umbrella document.
- 3.2.2 WEM 2nd to last bullet. What does Emergency Response plan mean? Is that supposed to be Emergency Plan? Answer: should likely read Emergency Support Function. Will investigate further.
- 3.2.2 Planning publications. Commenter suggests adding Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Clarify that WEM is not expected to submit plans to WSPSCS.
- Add WI Hospital Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Consider guidance for Regional EM Directors.

Section 4: Communications Structure and Universal Standard Operating Procedures

- 4.1 Last sentence is duplicate of 4.4
- 4.2 re: e-Sponder...should be included between incidents and other communications entities.
- 4.2 *e-Sponder* needs to be included.
- A section should be added for communications between MACEs in which *e-Sponder* is utilized.
- 4.4 Multi-agency Coordination system is called a MAC, not a MCS (on page 10 of 41)
- 4.4 A Multi-agency Coordination Entity is called a MACE. Examples would be a JFO, EOC or a countywide multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional dispatch center.

Section 5: Channel Patching and Monitoring

- 5.1 (& 6.2.2 and others) I am confused with how you use your term “Intra-Jurisdictional.” “Intra” is a prefix added to the start of a word. It indicates that “inside” or “within” and modifies the word it is attached to. Down here in the Southeast region, we have 800Mhz trunked talkgroups that we call “interoperable” talkgroups. They are some set up for our City and some that are set up for our entire county. These are different from the Statewide interoperable channels (MARC, MABUS, WISPERN etc). In your view, the intra-jurisdictional channels are the local interoperable talkgroups. The extra-jurisdictional channels would be the Statewide interoperability channels.

- 5.2 I am assuming this language is based on a generic document. It may be OK but the MARC plan says long term patches are not permitted without prior authorization.
- 5.2.1 “Continuous marc patch to 800 MHz?” (This section needs some further review/development by the SIEC.....). Most of the document is general and here we focus on a specific place and it’s unique needs. Milwaukee Metro area overlay should be talked about perhaps as a starting point. Sam Steffan was elected leader for this task. It should have broader application. Sam and Carl will work on this.
- 5.2.1 Milwaukee area: make more applicable to any communities that have that kind of overlay.
- 5.2.1 – Is this specific to UASI? Needs to be more generic. Carl Guse has language suggestion. Patching applies to more than Milwaukee. LaCrosse does this with WISPERN.
- 5.3. – interoperability channel monitoring: This requirement may overload dispatch centers. Tasking dispatch centers with monitoring additional MARC channels needs further discussion. If your jurisdiction activates the MARC repeater then naturally your dispatch center would be tasked with monitoring it.....unless local procedures dictate otherwise depending on the unique needs of the incident.
- Amend to the command post being responsible for MARC channel when activated.
- 6.2.1 Rules of Use - Priority codes need to be straightened out. People are using different ones and it is confusing. This is not going to be solved by plain talk. It is a different issue. Emergency Medical dispatching needs to be fixed. LE says one thing and Fire/EMS use different numbering system for priority for response. (Collins and Cameron, SIEC) asked for ideas of how to fix. They said pick a way that works for everybody; doesn't matter what that way is.
- Don't think 10 codes will go away.
- Fire is taught plain language. It doesn't matter if emergency or non-emergency.
- 6.2 I would like to see something added to the plan telling users to identify themselves at the beginning of their use of an interoperability channel.
- 6.2.1 Add comment emphasizing that NIMS requires plain language.
- 6.2.1 Change appendix to attachment 3.
- 6.2.1 Should be changed to include “When engaged in incident response using ICS, plain language is required.” Once an agency establishes “Command”, plain language (no ten-codes) will be used regardless of whether it has gone multi-jurisdictional or not. The value of using 10-codes for simplicity and speed is lost when members of the response team are unaware of their meanings, as may occur in a multi-jurisdiction / multi-agency response event. As 10-codes used in one jurisdiction, or agency, are not the same as those used in another, it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology to prevent misunderstanding in an emergency situation. While plain English is not required for internal operations, it is encouraged over 10-codes to promote familiarity within operational procedures used in emergencies.

Section 6: Voice Interoperable Communication Procedure, Activation, Transfer, and Discontinuation

6.2 Rules of Use

- 6.2.2 (& 5.1 and others) I am confused with how you use your term “Intra-Jurisdictional.” “Intra” is a prefix added to the start of a word. It indicates that "inside" or "within" and modifies the word it is attached to. Down here in the Southeast region, we have 800Mhz trunked talkgroups that we call “interoperable” talkgroups. They are some set up for our City and some that are set up for our entire county. These are different from the Statewide interoperable channels (MARC, MABUS, WISPERN etc). In your view, the intra-jurisdictional channels are the local interop talkgroups. The extra-jurisdictional channels would be the Statewide interop channels.
- 6.2.4 happens in real life the opposite way for some departments
- The “you then me” works better however some departments will not change (police) they will do what they do everyday.
- 6.2.4 “You then me” vs. ‘me then you’. The former is commonly used in the fire service. Field personnel are commonly told to add ‘unit’ before the number anyway....sort of acknowledging the need to do this. The Fire Service ICS/NIMS adopts NFA system.
 - Will LE change over? Should be able to as example that fire service went to plain text and overcame initial resistance.
- This will be a huge training issue for Outagamie as it is presently written.
- Need to make the change at the State level (Chiefs Association, Badger State Sheriffs)
- Does the change need to happen? Need proof to take back to agencies for total buy in
- Multiple-agencies on same frequency.
- Can’t have it both ways.
- Can we limit the use of 10 codes and use clear text?
 - Training and exercise Stigler – why not standardize it?
 - (Neil, SIEC) The NATO protocol won’t be recognized by younger employees?
 - Useful with handling mentally ill subjects?
 - Officer safety? In some situations you need them (subject is wanted for...vs. subject is 10-99).
 - 10 codes vary significantly.
 - DHS says when ICS is declared don’t use 10 codes. If you want to use them otherwise, go ahead.
- 6.2.4 The following is contrary to WSP normal operating procedures, and likely to be awkward in any real-time exercise: Establishing the initial voice radio contact between users will be by the "you then me" method. This method states you should say who you want to talk to first, then follow that by identifying who you are that is calling. For example if a Task Force 1 Supervisor wanted to speak to Ground Worker A, the message would be "Ground Worker A, this is Task Force Supervisor 1." This practice enables listening units to hear their call sign at the first part of the message.
- 6.2.4 Recommendation for standard methodology for ending transmission. “Clear” is a suggestion.
- 6.2.4 Expect pushback when change to this.
- 6.2.4 First part of transmissions gets cut off often times. Many agencies have this reversed so that person being called will hear scan. Doing it opposite in law enforcement so will get some resistance.
- 6.2.4 Could take one step further- which frequency are you talking on? Helps identify/ get back to proper talk group.

- 6.2.4 Add other references that lend support to adopting the procedure (NIMS, etc?)
- 6.2. 4 Their fire service does it just the opposite right now.
- When working on multiple channels, teach that transmitting operators should add the channel they are calling on when initiating a communication, especially if calling on a channel other than your usual channel.
- Teach to add the word “squad” or “unit” at the beginning of your transmission to avoid clipping and loss of the main substance of your communication.
- Training issue. People are not waiting. They push and start talking.
- 6.2.5 That is what police do now, somewhat. It is valid. It could be a struggle for fire but it is a very controlled system. See merit from his experience as a ham radio operator and no one is talking over them.
- People should be told before they get on scene what channel they should be on. Dispatch should tell people what channel to go to.
- 6.2.7 change “pumper” to “engine”
- 6.2.7 NIMS. Example with Appleton Fire Pumper would be a not proper NIMS resource. Should say engine. Attachment 2 lists functions. Look at NIMS document to get proper names/terminology. Example: Operations Section Chief, not Operations Officer.
- 6.2.7 Which channel is this referring to? Note this not well tied to Attachment 2.
- 6.2.8 Recommend identification by jurisdiction, discipline, function, and unit number as there could be several "Appleton Fire Pumper's" at an incident.

6.3 Operational Procedure for Limited and Full Activation

- 6.3 What is purpose of including that in SOP? EOC may or may not use interop channel to run operations. May be better for locals to decide than for state to decide. Should Attachment 2 be changed to reflect recommended channel assignment, as related to interoperability channel?
- 6.3 This isn't designating a particular frequency. It is saying that in big incident, there needs to be some flexibility. Logistics should be getting resources, according to NIMS.
- 6.3.1 Limited activation? Is short of an EOC to allow Management would have their own channel.

6.4 Radio Channel Activation Authority

- 6.4 What is the intent? A global statement who can activate it? Is there a process?
- 6.4 Needs to be more clear should be “any” channel not “the” channel
- 6.4 Needs to be re-stated to be more clear to the reader – currently confusing.
- 6.4 Radio Channel Activation Authority (we had trouble with this one....) Is it clear? Are we to look at this as a single or multiple incident?
- What is the intra-jurisdictional channel? Be aware that PSAP's may be the lead to get this going before first responders are on scene.
-
- Section 6.4.9 Should not the date listed at very end of this paragraph be 12/31/2010?

6.5 Establishing and Transferring Lead Dispatch Radio Command Control

- 6.5.2 Don't understand what they are saying because that is not how it really works. Verbiage about dispatch about becoming lead agency- where does that

come from? This would create major conflict at scene. Needs to be consistent with incident action plan.

6.6 Notification Process for Establishing Command Control

- 6.6 looks at the wider application. Make the language all the same?
- Activating intra-jurisdictional channel? Which channel is this?
- Dispatch could draft the ICS Form 205 prior to IC appointment and could hand off form to IC.
- 6.6 should be clarified by speaking to pre-planned vs. spontaneous incidents.

6.8 Mutual Aid Radio Channel Usage, Specifications, and Contacts

- 6.8.4 Suggest adding to the end of the 2nd paragraph: MARC3 and MARC4 are additional simplex tactical channels.
- 6.8.4.1 Suggest retaining "Mobiles will identify with the name of their agency and their unit number." "Mobiles" could be changed to "Users". I think this point needs reinforcing.
- 6.8.4.1 Is this a FCC requirement?
- Would make more sense to say who you are not use the State callsign
- 6.8.4.4 needs to be a required specification not a recommendation
- What about MARC 3 and 4? No reference made.
- 6.8.4.1 Need to use call sign at the end of each conversation (FCC likes it periodically but doesn't down channel the actual frequency).
- MARC 2 is the helicopter landing channel 6.8.4 (does not require turning on MARC 2. It's the talk around or simplex side of MARC 1.
- 6.8.4.4 Suggest that the DTMF decode capability and the Voice identifier

should be made requirements instead of recommendations.

- 6.8.5 Delete the 2nd last paragraph.
- 6.8.5 - (email comment) Regarding Township Fire being off the MARC3 frequency 154.010. I have suggested to OJA that Section 6.8.5 be deleted.

6.9 WISPERN Usage, Specifications, and Contacts

- Needs a representative from the fire service.
- Consider expansion to manage all Interoperability frequencies maybe needed, expand their role (MABAS, etc.)
- 6.9.2.3 Change to Badger State Sheriffs Association
- 6.9.2.3 WISPERN: needs some changes in membership structure. If not solely law enforcement, should include other disciplines. State Fire Chiefs Association would be willing to add a member to this group. We need to gain some clarification as to how available WISPERN is to other disciplines, as opposed to using "just working with others."
- 6.9.7.3 WISPERN opened only if for law enforcement. Section B. Is this written correctly?
- 6.9.7.4 numbering issue. Start for numbering is wrong.
- Maybe needs to say how channel is used (MARC, WISPERN) not what the channel is. Tech specs need to be an attachment. So don't need to dig through all the language. Reference attachment, shorten language in plan.
- Makes comment regarding MARC 1 and MARC 2. – Look at other non-repeating channels so that procedures do not have to be changed during an event that uses multiple 1st responder agencies. Karl – Possible use of MARC 3 & 4 during situations as raised by Keith.

6.10 EMS Communications System Usage, Specifications, and Contacts

- 6.10.1 - states ~~2-0~~ next to it
- 6.10.3 - states ~~2-4~~ next to it.
- 6.10.4 - states ~~2-6~~ next to it.
- 6.10.3.3 (Rice Lake Regional Airport)
As I go thru this program it seems to me communications with key airports is missing. Example today. Mayo 2 already occupies helipad at Barron Hospital and a second Helicopter is inbound and can't reach the hospital or Barron County by radio for instructions because the hospital has only one helipad. The airport was able to reach 2nd helicopter will aviation frequencies. It seems fully staffed airports like Rice Lake should be included with some extended communication capabilities. I realize County Management takes the lead on this but the need could be in Ladysmith and our Airport could take the lead on Air Transport. Helicopters probably would play a secondary role to fixed Aircraft.
- Use the names not the frequency.
- 6.10.4.9 - Each private ambulance will have a VHF radio (borrowed from medical plan)
- 6.10.2 State EMS – does it need to be EOC connection as well? Though it is mostly medical, if it is beyond medical, than other agencies need to be listed as well. Don't want to create any silos. Expand to include EOC, if it goes beyond resources of EMS. Search and Rescue Operation might fit in here too.
- 6.10.3.3 Comment disagrees with use of MARC 2 and EMC C, there is a LaCrosse conflict that they have a work around for.

- 6.10.3.5 “More detailed list can be found on page 20”- did this come from other place? No page 20 in this document.
- 6.10.4.4 thru 6.10.4.6 change text to read the label i.e. EMS C rather than the frequency. Reads easier.
- 6.10.4.7 Talks about tones for EMS B, EMS A and EMS C. It is interesting to note that at the hospitals we have visited in Wisconsin (mostly the western part) that we have yet to find any that have more than a two channel remote and all make use of a remote. This clearly restricts their ability to have the selection of all three channels and/or multiple tones. I hope this information as to how to make this change is being communicated with them in a clear document of some kind as the ones I have visited do not have a clue. Also, I have never found EMS C at any of the hospitals but that was last year and maybe things have changed.
- 6.10.4.8 Suggest that this be updated to reflect use of IFERN for MABAS dispatch, Incident Command, and staging functions. (PAUL)
- 6.10.4.12 While in flight, there could be conflict with MARC Repeater and MARC2. Add language that states “use EMS C or a pre-arranged local channel.”

6.10 Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

- Proposed policy (Copy submitted) by MABAS WI:

Subject: VHF Interoperability
Functional Area: Communications
Category: Policy
Approved By: _____

1. Purpose:

1.1 To encourage all MABAS members and other Fire Departments to obtain base station, mobile and portable radio communications capability on interagency radio frequencies for use during times of serious emergencies or disasters.

2. Responsibility:

2.1 This policy applies to all MABAS member agencies in the State of Wisconsin. It is encouraged that all fire departments and related emergency response organizations throughout Wisconsin adopt the procedures set forth herein.

3. Accountability:

3.1 Enforcement of this specific policy, as it relates to MABAS, rests initially within the local regional MABAS Division, the MABAS Wisconsin Communications Committee, the State of Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator, and ultimately the State of Wisconsin SIEC.

4. Reporting Requirement:

4.1 Authorization for the use of these frequencies should be obtained from the State of Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator.

5. Background:

5.1 Fire departments rely heavily on two-way radios to communicate between companies, departments, and other disciplines at emergency and disaster scenes. Fire Departments utilize radio frequencies in the VHF-Low, VHF-High, UHF and 800 MHz frequency bands for day-to-day operations. Newer technologies include the use of analog

and digital transmissions and trunking technologies using incompatible protocols.

5.2 While these systems may meet the routine needs of individual department, experience has shown that lack of interoperability between companies operating at an emergency scene can lead to serious and potentially life threatening consequences.

5.3 The FCC's national radio frequency band plan specifies VHF high band radio frequencies for fire service interoperability and fireground operations. There are also five analog public safety mutual aid frequency pairs in the 800 MHz band plan. The State of Wisconsin has identified the frequencies for Mutual Aid Radio Channels for use as a statewide, interdisciplinary, coordination channels for use by police, fire, EMS, public works, highway and other governmental agencies.

5.4 Departments that utilize frequencies other than VHF high band for primary operations have developed various systems to communicate with MABAS departments at mutual aid calls. These systems have many limitations, have tendencies to cause harmful interference, limit operating areas, may violate FCC rules, and could jeopardize the safety of personnel at emergency scenes.

5.5 NFPA Standard 1221, Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Communications Systems, Section 6-3.1.3 and 6-3.1.4 recommend that, "A simplex radio channel shall be provided for on-scene tactical communications" and "Communications system design shall be such that a

portable radio is capable of operating properly within the dispatch area without the use of mobile frequency (RF) amplifiers”.

5.6 MABAS and the Wisconsin Emergency Management agency (WEM), may enter into an agreement to provide disaster response statewide. The potential exists for fire and EMS units to be operating for extended periods of time several hundred miles from their local jurisdiction or other distant jurisdictions may be operating in a stricken community during a disaster. Common mutual aid operations and fireground frequencies that will function statewide are essential.

5.7 The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated 12.5 kHz “narrow band” frequencies, three of which are for inter-system operation. As fire departments migrate to newer “narrow-band” two-way radio equipment, the four additional frequencies identified for MABAS and on scene tactical use should be implemented.

5.8 Future fire service communications could dictate an alternate base to mobile frequency. To address this need, one of the new frequencies (IFERN2 154.3025 MHz) has been designated for base and mobile licensing.

6. Policy:

6.1 The MABAS Wisconsin Communications Committee hereby makes the following recommendations for both member and non-member Fire Department:

6.1.1 The following analog simplex radio frequencies are hereby identified for fire service and public safety interoperability:

Frequency	Name	Purpose
154.265 MHz	IFERN	Mutual Aid Base/Mobile Dispatch
153.8300 MHz	Fireground Red	Fireground Operations
154.2800 MHz	Fireground White	Fireground Operations
154.2950 MHz	Fireground Blue	Fireground Operations
153.8375 MHz	Fireground Gold	Fireground Operations
154.2725 MHz	Fireground Black	Fireground Operations
154.2875 MHz	Fireground Gray	Fireground Operations
154.3025 MHz	IFERN2	Alternate Mutual Aid Base/Mobile

6.2 All fire service apparatus that has the potential to respond mutual aid to a department that uses a different dispatch radio band or technology, or that may respond as part of a WEM/MABAS disaster response should have at least one mobile and one portable radio capable of functions on the frequencies identified above.

6.3 All fire department command vehicles should have radio capability on all the VHF high band frequencies identified above.

6.4 All fire department dispatch centers statewide should have base station transmit and receive capabilities on the IFERN frequency of 154.265 MHz. MABAS members should have capability

to receive and decode the MABAS alert tones.

6.5 Fire Departments that lack current authorizations for the frequencies identified above should immediately apply for authorization under the statewide license. Many counties have obtained authorization for all agencies with the county. Base stations must be licensed by each agency by submitting a license application and frequency coordination request to the frequency coordinator.

6.6 The use of trunking technology, or console based cross-band patches is strongly discouraged for tactical fireground operations.

6.7 In accordance with Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, all ambulances shall have VHF high band capabilities on the statewide EMS frequencies.

7. Conclusion:

7.1 Interoperability between various fire department and other public safety and governmental agencies at major emergencies or disasters is essential for organized and safe coordination of personnel and resources.

- Proposed policy (Copy submitted) by MABAS WI:

Wisconsin Statewide Radio License
Functional Area: Communications
Category: Policy
Approved By: _____

1. Purpose:

1.1 To permit the sharing of the Wisconsin statewide radio authorization, KO2099, for the IFERN and IFERN2 dispatch frequencies and the Fireground Red, White, Blue, Gold, Black, and Gray frequencies with MABAS member departments operating under the signed MABAS agreement and their affiliated emergency response entities.

2. Responsibility:

2.1 This policy applies to all MABAS member agencies in the State of Wisconsin. It is encouraged that all fire departments and related emergency response organizations throughout Wisconsin adopt the procedures set forth herein.

3. Accountability:

3.1 The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), an intergovernmental agency, has been granted an authorization by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), through the State of Wisconsin, State Patrol Frequency Coordinator, to operate mobile stations throughout the State of Wisconsin on the eight (8) "MABAS" frequencies. This authorization was obtained to ensure fire service interoperability throughout Wisconsin at emergency incidents and disaster scenes. Enforcement of this specific policy, as it relates to MABAS, rests initially within the local regional MABAS Division, the MABAS Wisconsin Communications Committee, the Wisconsin State Patrol Frequency Coordinator, and ultimately the State of Wisconsin SIEC.

4. Reporting Requirement:

4.1 Authorization must be requested through the State of Wisconsin State Patrol Frequency Coordinator.

5. Background:

5.1 The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), an intergovernmental agency, has been granted an authorization by the Federal Communications Commission to operate mobile and temporary fixed base stations throughout the Wisconsin State Patrol Frequency Coordinator, on the eight (8) "MABAS" frequencies. This authorization was obtained to ensure fire service interoperability throughout the State of Wisconsin at emergency incidents and disaster scenes.

6. Policy:

6.1 In accordance with Part 90, Subpart H, Section 90.179 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, Shared Use of Radio Stations, the Wisconsin State Patrol Frequency Coordinator, hereby authorizes the shared use by member MABAS departments and their affiliated emergency response organizations, that qualify for public safety licensure, frequencies authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on call sign KO2099 provided that all of the following conditions are met:

6.1.1 The use of the identified MABAS frequencies will be restricted to emergency scene communications, on scene tactical and interoperability communications, and official training activities. Emergency use will take priority over any other traffic.

6.1.2 Member departments using the MABAS authorization agree to abide by

all applicable FCC rules and regulations.

6.1.3 Member departments using the MABAS authorization agree to abide by all relevant MABAS Communications Policy Statements.

6.1.4 Member departments using the MABAS authorization agree to limit transmit power to a maximum of ten (1) watts on the Fireground Red, White, Blue, Gold, Black, and Gray frequencies.

7. Conclusion:

7.1 The FCC has the authority to cease radio operations, levy monetary fines and seize radio equipment, even public safety radio equipment, which is being operated in violation of their rules. Neither the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, nor the MABAS Executive Board will accept responsibility for operations by member or non-member entities on the eight (8) MABAS frequencies that are in conflict with FCC rules or are in conflict with this policy statement, MABAS rules and regulations or any other local, state or federal law. Any sanctions imposed by the FCC, including fines, costs and attorney's fees incurred by MABAS due to a member or non-member entity's improper use of the MABAS frequencies shall be the responsibility of the offending party.

6.13 ICS Communications Plan and Radio Messaging Procedure Using ICS Form

- This should be used when written communication is required...not necessarily in all cases. Are we required to use the forms now? What discretion

does the local agency have? Can this be done electronically in an e-Sponder environment? (WEM is working on this now). We went from general to real specific. COML testing may also be underway but presently ICS speaks to paper option. Should we look at the COML section in TICP? All incidents should be run consistent with current NIMS guidance.

- Re-state to clarify that this is not required for all ICS communications but rather is used for communications centers responsible for re-broadcasting messages from various, remote offices.
- Try to develop stronger tie to COML and provide for controlling procedure to be NIMS documentation.
- Clarify that not all messages are expected to be written.
- Add test to tie to TCIP plans.

Section 7: No comments Received

Section 8: Communications Alternatives

- Section 8. What patch is being referred to in this section? This needs to be clarified.
- ARES needs to be listed as a resource
- Mutual Aid Contacts are outdated attachment #4
- 8.2 Telephone bridges what was the intent with this section? Use other communications methods such as the phone, email etc.
- Section 8.12. A nice extra that I have seen is to provide a small laminated card for each radio that described basic operation and channel programming.
- 8.4 is this for different systems like HAN, E-Sponder? Not “a” system needs to be plural

- 8.6 Satellite phones WEM has 10 which were active, now in-active need time to turn on when they are needed.
- Resources of amateur radio not mentioned at all in this section. ARES/RACES should be considered in this section.
- 8.5 E-sponder and WI –TRAC (bed tracking , diversion software to track patients, alerts,)
- Amateur radio: (Copy submitted) RACES
“Amateur Radio (Wisconsin ARES/RACES) Wisconsin ARES/RACES is made up of almost 1,400 federally licensed amateur radio operator (HAM’s) located throughout the state. The value of amateur radio has been proved in the 9/11 WTC tragedy, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, western states wild fire, tornado events here in Wisconsin and countless other emergencies. Amateur radio offers short (VHF and UHF) and long (HF) range voice and data communications capability including last mile delivery of conventional email (Win Link2000) where internet connectivity is unavailable. ARES/RACES radio equipment is pre-positioned at EOCs, hospitals, public health offices, and other such facilities across the state. Several ARES/RACES teams own mobile communications centers some of which have public safety radio linking (ACU 1000) capability. To request communications assistance from Wisconsin ARES/RACES, contact the WEM Duty Officer or the appropriate county emergency manager.”
- 8.5 Not Universal to all EOCs have online services.
- 8.13 Add RoIP Alternative
- 8.14 Add WCIA concept to applicable counties.

- (email) “West Central Interoperability Alliance (WCIA) Regional Network System”
A West Central regional dispatch center initiative provides dispatch center-to-dispatch center inter-communication (intercom) by using the State's BadgerNet Converged Network as a backbone for Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) communication. Multiple dispatch centers can be linked simultaneously to create a regional network. WCIA Emergency Management VHF radio repeaters in each county can also be linked using the same system thus offering expanded radio coverage. This system has been engineered for state-wide implementation and it makes efficient use of an already in place wide area network resource without additional ongoing network costs.”
- Section 8 add *E-Sponder*. Should add other modalities as well. At the Virginia Tech tragedy, they opened up a separate incident Web Site to communicate and disseminate messages to the public.

Section 9: Training Requirements

- Has wrong attachment listed should be attachment #5 not #4
- How is radio set up (local procedures, training, function of controls)
- Difference between simplex and other frequencies.
- Correct attachment 5, not attachment 4.
- Should have a reference to NIMS training here. It is generally in other parts of plan but spell it out here.
Example: Requirement that everyone has taken ICS 100 and 700.
- Re-emphasize requirements for NIMS training.

- Add NIMS resource typing list with position definitions/terms. Add this as an attachment. Send this to State NIMS Advisory board for inconsistencies with NIMS.
- Add interoperability exercising should occur and be imbedded in all exercises.

Section 10: Testing Requirements

- 10.2 Why is Milwaukee mentioned here...maybe is should refer to overlay areas more generally stating “where overlays exist”.
- 10.2 Testing should be left up to the agency at different times to enable training but stating “Monday” is OK to help with verification of testing.
- 10.2 Make broader instead of targeting specific communities.
- 10.2 Testing for purposes of interoperability, but if don’t test during all the shifts, some don’t experience it. Related to training.
- 10.2 Add a bullet point about training related to this testing. Technical aspect of equipment is site specific so do drills. Test application of it. Test equipment and personnel. Incorporate into exercises. How do you use the channels? Need to know how it works during incident.

10.3 Testing Requirements

- Exercising is essential to the preparation of forces to conduct emergency service delivery. This should be stated in the plan and as a consistent message throughout this initiative.

Section 11: Shared Responsibility of State, Local, and Tribal entities for Interoperable Communications

- Section 11 I would move Section 11 to the front of the document

SOP Attachments

- Attachment 4 Outdated
- Attachment 2 Pre-assigned channel assignments? Used from MABAS documents, to divide up by functions.
- Concern: Will have other things going on Shelter operations, Public Health, Volunteer Management, Donations Management, Hospital involvement, Animal issues, Mass Clinics
- Other support functions are not listed.
- Attachment 2 Change title to “Recommended channel assignments for specific functions during development of a communications plan at mutual aid incidents.”
- Attachment 2 Consider the use subheadings for Attachment 2, the list of six from the table on Page 10.
- Attachment 2 Formatting problems on the Water Supply and Aerial Ladder lines.
- Haz Mat (listed is different channels than MABAS plans) perhaps MARC 3 for Haz-Mat Officer and Resource Haz-Mat Entry/Back up on MARC 4. Cross check above with the MARC Plan language.
- Attachment 3 Change “Peter” to Paul on law enforcement.
- Attachment 5 Training (should emphasize training to this document?) Some of the items should be included in basic training so seems very basic in this setting. Users should be trained to use the sop quickly.

- Attachment 5 Change how the “radio is set up” to How to properly operate the radio controls and set up functions.”
- Attachment 5 Add prerequisite is ICS 700 and 100 of operators and use of ICS Form 205.
- Attachment 5 Clarify that this SOP applies to all communications and not just on the WPSCS.
- Attachment 5 Add language/section list that specifies what portions of this SOP must be in the training of users This appendix is not intended to be an comprehensive operator skill list. These appendix items are required but others may be appropriate and necessary as published elsewhere in other documents.
- Attachment 4 Mutual Aid and Radio Channel Repeater...(the document requires updating)..not accessible in Waukesha Co.
- Attachment 4 This is out of date. If you think that this needs to be included, I can work on an update.
- Attachment 4 A nice add might be where mobile MARC repeaters are located that are county/consortium owned
- (email) In the suggested radio channel list in attachment 2 it lists Fireground Red for most fire related operations. I would recommend that we keep Fireground Blue for that purpose as that is the former Statewide Firecom channel and there are still many radios out there which only have Firecom and don’t have Fireground Red in their radios. Otherwise we would be cutting them out until they can do reprogramming, which is not known in some cases. So my suggestion is in appendix 2 switch Fireground Red and Blue around to accommodate the use of the old Firecom channel.
- Attachment 5 Should there not be some mention of minimal NIMS training in the list?

Additional Comments

- Add a glossary and definition of terms section/appendix.
- Amateur radio operators may be priced out of field if encryption is implemented. Public loses ability to listen in for accountability if encryption goes through.
- Please put together user friendly power point about plan that Chiefs can share with politicians to gain buy in.
- Commenter encouraged others to sit down with local officials before power point stage to discuss the issues with them. They may not be knowledgeable about this topic. Create awareness with them.
- SIEC needs to expand governance board. Suggest having rep. from MABAS-WI laced on SIEC. MABAS rep. will provide valuable insight on large scale mutual aid response.
 - Need to address basic 'overlay' issues. Example; Racine county FD's has a low cost overlay item which could pay big dividends if funded.
 - SIEC needs to evaluate the digital radio 'white' static noise problem.
- It was interesting last evening as I am a member of the local Red Cross DAT and we had a presentation on the operations of an EOC. The presenter was telling us how busy the dispatch center is and that nearly all of its channels are in use even with a minimal event. Someone asked then what channels would be used in support of the disaster and he said that last week the dispatch supervisor announced to all officers that only emergency traffic would be allowed. He never really answered this persons question with a direct response.

Someone else asked if there was a standard procedure and the response was yes but he would have look it up. This document is an excellent start but I am not sure there is yet a clear direction for the counties that they certainly also need to develop a plan that builds on this.

- Is it a goal of Wisconsin to have IFERN and IFERN 2 in place throughout the state?
- Are you going to address different levels of Interoperability Strategy for levels 1 - 5, with flow charts?

Functional Specifications Comments

Introduction

- 1. “It will also define which features will pass from system to system.” (and then subsequently add language elsewhere in the specifications that actually accomplish this statement.)

Objectives

- 1.1.1.A.2 Amend portable coverage throughout the system to “Portable connection to the system via local vehicle repeaters.” Conversely, clarify the opposite that it is true portable, from the hip, coverage. Tie this language to 3.1.2.C.
- 1.1.1.A.4 Add “Geographical areas/agencies with a more robust need can fund the upgrade, transfer ownership, and any sustaining or maintenance of the enhancement will be borne by the system.
- 1.1.1.F.2 Integration with fire paging is too ambiguous and needs more detail.
- 1.1.1.F.3 Determine and clarify how many frequencies are needed. Concern is that even if the funding is there, frequency requirements for such a system exceed availability.

WPSCS System Requirements

- 3.C Benefits are too ambiguous “what does 1 through 4 mean? 2 - who are “all participants”? 3 - who are “others”?”

Capacity

- 3.1.3.B Caution expressed. 5000 talk groups could be limiting. (divide 72

counties by 5000 and it is less than 100 per county.)

- 3.1.3.D This is a tremendous capacity need. Statement needs further detail and qualification to state true capacity and not build false expectations.

System Access Time

- 3.1.6. Statements 2 and 3 System Access Time This is a delay in access time that will noticeable to users.

Grade of Service

- 3.1.9 This standard allows 1 in 100 calls to be blocked. This noticeable and may not be a sufficient standard.

Operational Mode

- 3.2.1 Explain the “certain conventional mode scenarios”

Connectivity

- 3.2.2.E Telephone interconnect ties substantial resources. Limit use via policy and add training requirement and procedure.

Subscriber Unit Requirements

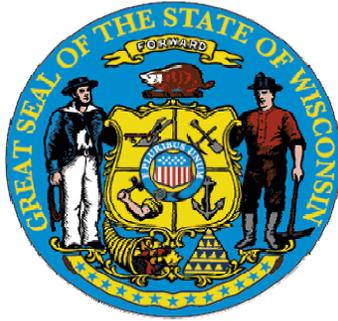
- 3.2.4 Language needed about intrinsically safe batteries in portable radios
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD).
- Clarify that the system envisions accommodating data transfer and connectivity and not a state-wide CAD system that all agencies would share. CAD features are very diverse and localities need flexibility for a system that meets local needs.

Communications Types

- 3.4.1.A Include WiFi in discussion
- 3.4.1.C Include WiFi

Appendix

- Question: RE: Suggested mutual aid channels in equipment with limited capacity. The problem is their command consoles in either dispatch or their EOC only have a max of 10 channels and they already have 7 programmed. Is there a suggestion as to the three they should have in there or is it recommended they upgrade their command consoles and is there any grant funding available for this?
 - (Carl) Only a few of these channels are generally appropriate to have in a dispatch console or EOC (with transmit capability); the primary channels to have are Point, WISPERN, MARC1, MARC2, and IFERN.



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The logo for the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) features a stylized black silhouette of the state of Wisconsin inside a white circle, followed by the letters "OJA" in a large, bold, serif font. Below this, the words "OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE" are written in a smaller, all-caps, serif font, separated by a horizontal line.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE