



NEVADA

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report

November 2011

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SCIP Implementation Report Overview

The Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report provides an annual update on your State's progress in achieving the initiatives and strategic vision identified in the SCIP. Further, this information will provide OEC with a clearer understanding of your State's capabilities, needs, and strategic direction for achieving interoperability statewide.

- **Part 1, "SCIP Implementation Update"** of the report is to be completed by the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) or Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Point of Contact (POC). As required by Congress, States provide updates and changes to the status of their Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans in this section. Each State created a SCIP in 2007 and all have been regularly updated. The template sections match those required in the original SCIP, and extensive instructions were provided to the States to understand the requirements of these sections and assist in the development of their SCIPs. The initiatives within each report include milestones identified in the NECP which will be standardized, as well as State-specific efforts.
- **Part 2, "UASI Interoperability Communications Assessment,"** is to be completed by the designated UASI and submitted to the SWIC or SCIP POC. Goal 1 of the NECP states that by the end of 2010, 90% of DHS-designated Urban Areas will be able to demonstrate response-level communications during a routine event. To assess Goal 1, OEC has sent teams of evaluators to the 60 UASI cities to observe communications during a large-scale planned event. In addition to the event observation, this section of template will provide OEC with broader capability data across the lanes of the Interoperability Continuum which are key indicators of consistent success in response-level communications.
- **Part 3, "NECP Goal 2 Methodology,"** is to be completed by the SWIC or SCIP POC. This portion of the SCIP Implementation Report will help the State prepare for the assessment of NECP Goal 2 in 2011. In 2011, capability data (identical to the questions asked of UASIs in the 2010 report) and response-level performance data will be collected at the county/county-equivalent level to meet the NECP Goal 2 mandate of assessing response-level communications in "non-UASI" jurisdictions. Through this section of the template, OEC is asking for each State's methodology, which must address key issues such as: ensuring that all counties will be assessed; ensuring adequate local input; and ensuring completion by the September 30, 2011 deadline. OEC will validate the proposed approaches before States begin the data collection process in FY 2011.

Part 1. SCIP Implementation Update

The following sections ask that States provide an update on the implementation of their SCIP. States will first provide an overview of their current interoperability environment (“State Overview”) and then identify their vision and mission statements (“Vision and Mission”). The remaining sections in Part I ask that States consider their progress along the five lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum (Governance, Standard Operating Procedures [SOPs], Technology, Training and Exercises, and Usage).

For each lane of the Continuum, States are asked to provide a brief narrative explaining their efforts related to the identified lane. For each lane of the Continuum, States are also asked to address initiatives identified in the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) as well as any additional initiatives identified within their State. NECP-related initiatives appear pre-populated in the “NECP Initiatives” section of each table below. Additional initiatives identified by States can be addressed in the “Additional State Initiatives” section of each table below. States are not limited to the number of fields provided in the template and should add additional rows as needed to accurately address all applicable initiatives. When completing these tables, the following information must be provided for each initiative:

- **Gap:** Identify the gap that this initiative will address.
- **Owner:** Identify the State owner of this specific initiative.
- **Milestone:** List the date that this initiative was or is scheduled to be completed.
- **Status:** Identify whether this initiative is complete, in progress, or not started.

The following is an example of how the charts in Part 1 should be completed:

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent position.</i>	No full time SWIC in place	Governor	2/2009	Complete

Part 1 is to be completed by the SWIC or SCIP POC.

State Overview

Overview of the State and its interoperability challenges:

Nevada has a diverse climate, due partly to variations in latitude and elevation. Winters are the coldest in the northeast with an average January temperature of ~23°F. The July average is ~90°F at Las Vegas. It is also the driest State, with average annual precipitation (rain and melted snow) of approximately nine inches in Elko and less than four inches in the Las Vegas area. Much of the precipitation falls as winter snow, with the spring thaw contributing to streams and creeks flowing from the mountains.

About 80 percent of Nevada's land is under Federal government control of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or military use. The central portion of the State contains the Nation's nuclear testing grounds, and a live-weapons range used by various branches of the United States military for aerial and air-to-ground combat training.

Nevada includes 28 federally recognized Indian Tribes located throughout the State. Today, a relatively small amount of Nevada is reserved for the 28 tribes and their members, approximately 6 percent of the State's land area. The borders of many reservations overlap State or county borders, adding unique complexities to land administration efforts.

The Las Vegas metropolitan area alone hosts more than 44 million annual visitors. This population influx makes the Greater Las Vegas Metropolitan Area, or Clark County, the one designated Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdiction within the State.

Currently, there are various multi-jurisdiction, multi-discipline agreements in place. Primarily those agreements exist within southern Nevada (Las Vegas/Clark County). Nevada plans to create additional agreements as the State proceeds in achieving statewide communications interoperability and as the need for various agreements arise for establishing appropriate user relationships.

The Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) did not include specifics on the critical infrastructure in the State nor any interoperability challenges due to geography. It also did not mention other States bordering Nevada and how they fit into the communications efforts.

Vision and Mission

Overview of the interoperable communications vision and mission of the State:

The State SCIP (version 5, Sept 2010) has a timeframe of **5 years (September 2010 – September 2015)**.

Vision:

Providers of public safety and critical infrastructure services in the State of Nevada, in both the public and private sectors, at all levels of government, including local, county, special districts, authority, tribal, state and federal, will possess the tools needed to communicate and work together:

- To more effectively address their day-to-day missions
- To respond to and recover from large-scale emergencies:
 - In real time
 - Across disciplines and jurisdictions
 - With optimum balance between efficiency and effectiveness
 - At the lowest appropriate long-term cost to the public, given the criticality of the public safety mission.

Mission:

Provide the leadership, governance structure and environment necessary to foster the relationships that will be required to support the highest level of interoperability between all agencies supporting public safety in the State through standard operating procedures, planning, technology, training, exercise and usage of communications resources within the State. Educate key policy makers at all levels of the government regarding the state of Nevada's public safety communications, as well as needs and benefits of continued investment to further interoperable communications.

Establish continuing funding and formal authority for NCSC to fulfill State Interoperability Executive Committee duties, establish and coordinate interoperable public safety communications within the State, and advise the Homeland Security Commission on public safety radio communications.

Governance

Overview of the governance structure, practitioner-driven approaches, and funding:

By executive order of the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Nevada Communication Steering Committee (NCSC) was created in 2003. It is through this order that the NCSC is designated and charged with the responsibility to act as the “State Interoperability Executive Committee” (SIEC) for the State of Nevada. The NCSC is a multi-discipline, multi-jurisdictional body. It serves as an advisory committee to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCoHS) and acts as a representational body for the purpose of gathering input necessary to address communications interoperability.

Additionally, the NCoHS acts as the review body for proposed expenditure of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds and makes its recommendations to the Governor for final approval and distribution of funding. The Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) to the Federal government for the purpose of grant administration. The NCSC was delegated responsibility for oversight of all communications-related issues.

To capture local input for the development of the SCIP, input was solicited from local governments and meetings were held with emergency responders around the State. The State recognizes it is essential to ensure continued input from local entities and to build local support for the success of any statewide interoperability initiatives.

There is established coordination with local jurisdictions and neighboring States—Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah—for emergency responder communications. However, the SCIP does not explain the mechanism by which this coordination is achieved.

The State has no formal regional, multi-county emergency services organization for the purpose of operations. The State does however have a mutual aid compact, known as the Nevada Emergency Management Assistance Compact (NEMAC), which has been signed by all of the counties. The NEMAC addresses issues of liability, accountability, and reimbursement as it would relate to the sharing of resources across jurisdictional boundaries. Coordination of regional, multi-county emergency services is reliant upon county-to-county cooperation. Statewide emergency management officials coordinate response across jurisdictional boundaries. Additionally, each of the 17 counties in Nevada has an emergency manager, sheriff’s office providing police services, and a fire service for fires and emergency medical needs. Several counties also contain chartered municipalities with municipal emergency management, police, and fire/emergency medical services (EMS) departments.

Governance Initiatives

The following table should outline the strategic governance initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates [State] outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent position.</i>	None	SAA / HSA	July 2008	Complete
<i>Incorporate the recommended membership into the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB)¹.</i>	None	Governor	2003	Complete
<i>Establish the SIGB via legislation or executive order.</i>	None	Governor	2010	Complete
Additional State Initiatives				
<i>Develop regional working groups to lead development of regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) and enhance local input on communications interoperability issues.</i>	TICP's have been published in all three regions of the state. Formal working group exists in the UASI, NW and NE regions	NCSC, SWIC	March 2011	Complete
<i>Revise, update and promulgate an interagency Radio Frequency Plan. The plan shall be reconciled with surrounding states. Progress on this goal will be reported to the Commission on Homeland Security on a quarterly basis.</i>	Publication and distribution of the Nevada Interoperability Field Operation Guide (NEViFOG) is complete	NCSC, SWIC	June 2011	Complete
<i>Work with Nevada-based senior management of federal agencies to encourage, enhance and support federal participation in the NCSC.</i>	NCSC bylaws have been amended to include federal representation. Appointment of federal representative pending by Governor	NCSC	Near term	In progress, the federal appointment being the last piece.
<i>Establish Communications Assets Survey & Mapping (CASM) participation for all public safety agencies in Nevada.</i>	09 IECGP grant modified to create contractor assistance to outreach to local govts.	NCSC, SWIC	September 2011	Complete

¹ SIGBs should include representatives from the Governor's office, State and local elected officials, State and local emergency medical services, State and local health officials, State and local fire response services, State and local law enforcement, State and local emergency management, State and local homeland security offices, tribal governments, State and local transportation agencies, military organizations, Federal agencies that need to be interoperable with State and local emergency responders, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions, critical infrastructure, non-government organizations, response and recovery organizations, and regional planning committee chairpersons. This guidance is included in the Statewide Interoperability Planning Guidebook: <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/NR/rdonlyres/18F02413-CC4D-41B2-9097-F5FF04E080C7/0/StatewidePlanningGuidebookFINAL.pdf>.

Standard Operating Procedures

Overview of the shared interoperable communications-focused SOPs

Documentation, of communications SOPs varies widely among Nevada public safety agencies. Some Nevada cities and towns have no communications SOPs in place, formal or informal, written or unwritten. Other cities and towns have informal, unwritten agreements, and still others have implemented formal, fully documented SOPs.

Nevada has engaged in a series of regional workshops for the development of SOP's. Seven draft SOP's have been developed and are approved by the NCSC. These SOP's include, fixed gateway use, mobile gateway use, mobile command centers, intrastate channel naming, crossband repeater use, cache radio use, and rules for interoperable channel use.

The State has placed the requirement of National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance on each of the 17 counties, as well as incorporated cities, as a condition of funding and has required each of them to document evidence of their NIMS compliance through use of the NIMS Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) program.

SOP Initiatives

The following table should outline the SOP strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates [State] outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.</i>	Planning in regional areas occurs regularly, primarily associated with wild land fire suppression	NCSC, SWIC, state, local and federal agencies	On-going	In progress
<i>All Federal, State, local and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions implement the Communications and Information Management section of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).</i>	State, local, and tribal agencies in the UASI have implemented the section as evidenced during the UASI Goal 1 assessment.	Las Vegas UASI	January 2010	Complete
<i>Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs.</i>	SOP's including interoperability channels have been drafted and are approved.	NCSC, SWIC	June 2011	Complete
<i>Update SCIP to reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the Incident Command System (ICS).</i>	This has not been addressed in the recent SCIP update	NCSC, SCIP	Middle term	Not started

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
<i>Define alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans.</i>	Regional TICP's and SOP's describe capabilities to varying degrees	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	An on-going process	In progress
Additional State Initiatives				
<i>Work with the regional working groups to define, test and exercise formal, statewide policy and procedures for local agencies and State interoperability using existing, deployed technology</i>	Regional workshops were held to develop the SOP's	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	February 2011	Complete
<i>Develop, test and exercise standard operating procedures for the use of mobile and fixed radio system gateways based on the SOPs.</i>	Exercise of the SOP's will follow adoption	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	Near term	In progress

Technology

Overview of the technology approaches, current capabilities, and planned systems:

Public safety interoperability in Nevada ranges from “basic” to “advanced” capabilities. At the basic level, radio caches are available and cross-band repeaters are used to connect agencies. In more sophisticated systems, a wide range of public services share a single proprietary network and have robust interoperable capabilities.

All public safety frequency bands are utilized in Nevada. While the major regional shared systems utilize the 800 megahertz (MHz) frequency band, the majority of rural areas that are outside of regional system coverage primarily use very high frequency (VHF) simplex channels. The State’s strategy is to first improve in-band communications, and then improve links across systems in disparate bands. Gateways and platform interconnects are being procured and installed to allow for interoperability with use of existing equipment in support of the “system of systems” concept. Nevada’s migration plan is to move toward Project 25 (P25) compliant equipment and Internet Protocol (IP) systems through a phased replacement process based on the lifecycle of existing equipment. There is currently one P25 system that is in the test and development phase in Nevada, the State requires that all radio equipment purchased after January 1, 2013, be capable of meeting P25 radio interface standards. Nevada is moving towards IP-based network switches for interoperability of both voice and data, and has adopted common Global Justice Extensible Markup Language (GJXML) compliant data sharing tools. An HSGP initiative is nearing completion that will enable IP-based connectivity between all of the major trunked systems operating in Nevada. Sixteen commonly named talk groups will be operational on each of the trunked systems creating a seamless interconnect for system users.

The four major regional shared systems are listed in the shared systems table below. The Southern Nevada Area Communications Council (SNACC) 800 MHz trunked system is linked to the current Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) VHF system through cross-band repeaters for interoperability using the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) calling and tactical channels. The new LVMPD 700/800 MHz Desert Sky Radio System is operational and nearing full implementation. That system backhaul will interface with the other trunked systems through the IP-based gateway interconnect system and share 12 designated Interoperable Talkgroups.

There is strategic technology reserve (STR) equipment available. Nevada has radio caches and mobile repeaters strategically located for deployment statewide. Additionally, Nevada has redundant systems and transport diversity to include transport capacity on State and county operated microwave and fiber systems and leased commercial circuits with parallel and/or looped paths. The four regional systems can gracefully degrade to independent operations including fallback to conventional systems. Through established Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), the State and local entities currently have organized extensive auxiliary communications (i.e., Radio Amateur Communications Emergency Service [RACES], Amateur Radio Emergency Services [ARES]).

The following tables lists the major systems in Nevada and include those used for solely interoperable communications, large regional systems specifically designed to provide interoperability solutions, and large wireless data networks.

Major Systems

The following tables should list the major systems in Nevada and include those used for solely interoperable communications, large regional systems specifically designed to provide interoperability solutions, and large wireless data networks.

Shared Statewide System ² (Name)	Description (Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS)	Statewide 800 MHz	Existing

State Systems (Name)	Description (Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
150/800MHz Tactical Crossband Repeaters	Statewide Interoperability Resource	Existing, became operational in 2011

Regional Systems (Name)	Description (Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Southern Nevada Area Communications Council (SNACC)	Regional 800 MHz trunked Implementing a P25 switch and 7 P25 sites in 2011	Existing
Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS)	Regional 800 MHz	Existing
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Radio System	700/800 MHz digital trunked system	Existing

² Shared statewide radio systems are typically designed to consolidate the communications of multiple State agencies onto a single system, thereby providing strong interoperability. Many States also make these systems available to Federal, local, and tribal agencies on a voluntary basis. In this case, local governments either chose to use the shared statewide radio system as their primary system, or they decided to interface their system to the shared statewide radio system creating a system of systems.

Technology Initiatives

The following table should outline the technology strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates [State] outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.</i>	Agencies adopt this programming at varying rates, dependent upon equipment capability and radio programming costs	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	Middle term	In progress
Additional State Initiatives				
<i>Establish a formal working relationship with appropriate federal entities to establish common, shared channels for federal, state and local uses.</i>	Nevada has the capability for federal agencies to connect their systems through gateways. The willingness of federal agencies remains the largest obstacle	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	On going	In progress
<i>Encourage and track the growth caches of portable radios configured to operate on the various proprietary shared systems to provide communications to inbound mutual aid resources.</i>	None. All caches identified, inventoried and uploaded to CASM using RFID	NSCS, SWIC	Sept 2009	Complete
<i>Support and encourage a statewide network of inter-tied base stations/repeaters to provide communications gateways between users in disparate frequency bands. (Short Term Gateways)</i>	A system of 25 repeaters has been installed to link VHF and 800 MHz frequencies around the state. Call channels will be backhauled to a central dispatch on the call channels. The repeaters are in place and licensed.	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	September 2011	Installation complete, backhaul and networking issues in progress
<i>Support and encourage a statewide IP-based network to interconnect public safety communications centers and their associated radio systems.</i>	Equipment obtained and installed. Engineering and planning complete to link major trunked systems. Nevada will pursue additional projects in coming years to link existing legacy systems to the existing network.	NSCS, SWIC	Middle term, ongoing	In progress

Training and Exercises

Overview of the diversity, frequency, and inter-agency coordination of training and exercises:

Nevada conducts a Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) on an annual basis. This workshop is intended to identify all statewide training and exercise needs and set forth the statewide training and exercise priorities in the Statewide Training and Exercise Plan. All training and exercises are developed with the intent of leveraging all available resources and incorporating multiple project objectives. All training and exercise programs are developed to encourage participation from multiple disciplines up to and including scenarios that would require a multi-discipline response that crosses over jurisdictional boundaries. As it relates to interoperability of communications systems, cross-disciplinary training and exercises are necessary to ensure adequate ability of the various disciplines to communicate seamlessly with each other during both emergency and planned events.

Training courses specific to interoperable communications systems and equipment are intended to be delivered following completion of a statewide training and exercise needs assessment. In the interim, communications equipment and users will continue to be included in all statewide exercises that are scheduled for numerous ongoing projects.

All first responder agencies in Nevada are trained to operate within the parameters of NIMS. Principles of the NIMS and Incident Command System (ICS) are integrated into emergency responses and recovery functions as well as planned events in Nevada. Nevada continues to provide training and exercises for sustaining NIMS compliance with public officials and the emergency first responder communities. Further, Nevada agencies have adopted the use of plain language in interoperable communications during emergencies and disasters, and the State is planning to encourage and support the use of plain language in day-to-day intra-agency communications as well. Most of Nevada's first responders have completed ICS-100, ICS-200, Independent Study (IS)-700, and IS-800 training, and many have also completed ICS-300 and ICS-400 courses.

All training and exercise programs are developed to encourage participation from multiple disciplines up to and including scenarios that would require a multi-discipline response that crosses over jurisdictional boundaries. As it would relate to interoperability of communications systems, cross-disciplinary training is necessary to ensure adequate ability of the various disciplines to communicate seamlessly with each other during both emergency and planned events. Providing for this type of training will also be of benefit in identifying other areas for improvement in event that a multi-discipline, multi-jurisdiction response should become necessary.

Training and Exercises Initiatives

The following table should outline the training and exercises strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates [State] outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
NECP Initiatives				
<i>Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into training and exercises.</i>	Exercises will be developed to leverage the roll-out of IP Gateway interconnects and crossband repeaters	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	On going	Not started
<i>Complete disaster communications training and exercises.</i>	Communications will be a planned component of other disaster exercises conducted throughout the state.	Nevada Emergency Management	Middle to long term	Not started
Additional State Initiatives				
<i>Carry out regional interagency, cross-discipline interoperability exercises based on DHS HSEEP exercise guidelines on at least a biennial basis. These exercises may be an element of a larger exercise.</i>	Exercises will be developed to leverage the roll-out of IP Gateway interconnects and crossband repeaters	Nevada Emergency Management and partners	Middle to long term	Not started
<i>Train, certify and deploy qualified and credentialed Communications Unit Leaders in all public safety disciplines.</i>	A PSIC sub grant has been administered to provide for a regional program to train COML personnel. A cadre of COML personnel exist in the LV urban area	Nevada Emergency Management	June 2012	In progress
<i>Once training programs have been developed and delivered for interagency operations, require periodic refresher training.</i>	Training not yet complete	Nevada Emergency Management	On going	Not started
<i>In cooperation with and through the existing state training bodies, develop training programs for all public safety personnel in the state based on the NIMS-based Standard Operating Procedures, consistent with the PSIC program</i>	A training team is now in the process of delivering multi-disciplinary training related to TICP's. The training is NIMS compliant	Nevada Emergency Management	December 2011	In progress

Usage

Overview of the testing of equipment and promotion of interoperability solutions:

Nevada did not go into specific detail regarding their current usage requirements or practices. However, SCIP planners did recognize that ongoing training and exercises are vital to the users' continued familiarity with not only the equipment, but with established SOPs as well. Nevada's long-term goal is to achieve or improve interoperability capabilities for utilization on a daily basis. Usage initiatives will come into play when an improved capability exists to use. The implementation of the IP-based interconnect talk groups will cause an increased focus on usage during 2011 and beyond

Usage Initiatives

The following table should outline the usage strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates [State] outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative (Name / Purpose)	Gap (Brief Description)	Owner (Agency, Department, and/or POC)	Milestone Date (Month/Year)	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
<i>Achieve or improve interoperability capabilities for utilization on a daily basis</i>	The near term availability of the IP gateway links for the shared, trunked systems coupled with the roll-out of the statewide crossband repeater system will dramatically improve the availability of interoperability for public safety users. Daily use will occur only after the systems are available and the users are trained and familiar with them.	NCSC, SWIC, state and local agencies	June 2012	In progress

National Emergency Communications Plan Goals

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) established a national vision for the future state of emergency communications. The desired future state is that emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized at all levels of government across all disciplines. To measure progress towards this vision, three strategic goals were established:

Goal 1—By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)³ are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications⁴ within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 2—By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 3—By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlines in national planning scenarios.

As part of the Goal 1 implementation process, OEC required UASIs to demonstrate response-level emergency communications during a planned event. Additionally, as part of the State's SCIP Implementation Report update in 2010, OEC is requiring information on UASIs' current capabilities. The capability questions are presented in Part II. UASIs must complete and submit responses on the capability questions to the SWIC or SCIP POC. The data generated from these questions will assist OEC in its analysis of Goal 1 performance and in identifying national trends in urban area communications. Similarly, to prepare for Goal 2 implementation in 2011, States are being asked to develop a methodology for collecting capability and performance data Statewide (please see Part III).

³ As identified in FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program

⁴ Response-level emergency communication refers to the capacity of individuals with primary operational leadership responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communications impediments.

Part 2 - UASI Communications Interoperability Capabilities Assessment Grid

The “Capabilities Assessment Grid” is to be completed by the designated UASI and submitted to the SWIC or SCIP POC. States that do not have UASIs do not need to complete this section.

For each lane of the Interoperability Continuum (Governance, Standard Operating Procedures [SOPs], Technology, Training and Exercises, and Usage), please select the one row that best describes the assessed area by checking the appropriate box. While multiple descriptions may apply, UASIs should identify the one row that most closely describes their highest level of capability achieved. The below capabilities assessment grid is to be completed by each UASI within the State.

Lane	Question	Answer
		Las Vegas UASI
Question 1: (Governance)	Urban area decision-making groups are informal, and do not yet have a strategic plan in place to guide collective communications interoperability goals and funding.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some <i>formal</i> agreements exist and <i>informal</i> agreements are in practice among members of an Urban Area decision making group; Urban Area strategic and budget planning processes are beginning to be put in place.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Formal agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of an Urban Area decision making group, which has an agreed upon strategic plan that addresses sustainable funding for collective, regional interoperable communications needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Urban Area decision making bodies proactively look to expand membership to ensure representation from broad public support disciplines and other levels of government, while updating their agreements and strategic plan on a regular basis.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Question 2: (SOPs)	Urban Area interoperable communications SOPs are not developed or have not been formalized and disseminated.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some interoperable communications SOPs exist within the urban areas and steps have been taken to institute these interoperability procedures among some agencies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Interoperable communications SOPs are formalized and in use by all agencies within the Urban Area. Despite minor issues, SOPs are successfully used during responses and/or exercise(s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Interoperable communications SOPs within the Urban Area are formalized and regularly reviewed. Additionally, National Incident Management System (NIMS) procedures are well established among all agencies and disciplines. All needed procedures are effectively utilized during responses and/or exercise(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lane	Question	Answer
		Las Vegas UASI
Questions 3: (Technology)	Interoperability within the urban area is primarily achieved through the use of gateways (mobile/fixed gateway, console patch) or use of a radio cache.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Interoperability within the Urban Area is primarily achieved through the use of shared channels or talkgroups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Interoperability within the Urban Area is primarily achieved through the use of a proprietary shared system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Interoperability within the Urban Area is primarily achieved through the use of a standards-based shared system (e.g., Project 25).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questions 4: (Technology)	What frequency band(s) do public safety agencies within the urban area currently utilize? (e.g., VHF-Low Band, VHF-High Band, UHF 450-470, UHF "T-Band" 470-512, UHF 700, UHF 800, UHF 700/800)	VHF-High Band, UHF 450-470, UHF 700/800, UHF 800
Question 5: (Training & Exercise)	Urban Area public safety agencies participate in communications interoperability workshops, but no formal training or exercises are focused on emergency communications.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some public safety agencies within the Urban Area hold communications interoperability training on equipment and conduct exercises, although not on a regular cycle.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Public safety agencies within the Urban Area participate in equipment and SOP training for communications interoperability and hold exercises on a regular schedule.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Urban Area public safety agencies regularly conduct training and exercises with a communications interoperability curriculum addressing equipment and SOPs that is modified as needed to address the changing operational environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questions 6: (Usage)	First responders in the Urban Area seldom use interoperability solutions unless advanced planning is possible (e.g., special event).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	First responders in the Urban Area use interoperability solutions regularly for emergency events, and in a limited fashion for day-to-day communications.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	First responders in the Urban Area use interoperability solutions regularly and easily for all day-to-day, task force, and mutual aid events.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Regular use of interoperability solutions for all day-to-day and out-of-the-ordinary events in the Urban Area on demand, in real time, when needed, as authorized.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questions 7: (Usage)	What percentage of the time do you use the following communications technologies during emergency responses?	
	Cell Service	60%
	Sat phone	10%
	Broadband Mobile Data	100%

Part 3. NECP Goal 2 Methodology

The below methodology for Goal 2 is to be completed by the SWIC or SCIP POC.

Goal 2 Methodology

In the section below, describe the methodology that you will use in 2011 for demonstrating and reporting Goal 2 of the NECP for all county or county equivalents in your State. Methodologies should address the following:

- *The incorporation of all counties or county equivalents*
- *Proposed approach to collect capability data (including from individual UASI counties)*
- *Proposed approach to collect performance data (including from individual UASI counties)⁵*
- *County-level input prior to submission of Goal 2 data to OEC*
- *Completion of data collection by September 30, 2011*

Nevada has 17 counties, one of which forms the boundary for Nevada's only UASI. Nevada will collect information from each county related to capability and performance. During the summer of 2010, Nevada sought a change to its 2009 IECGP program grants. Nevada sought to leverage a program to enhance and update CASM data to enhance the ability of each individual county to complete a collection of capability data as well as select an appropriate event for the collection of performance data. The change was approved in February 2011, and the project is complete.

⁵ Counties with significant participation in NECP Goal 1 demonstrations can use the results for their Goal 2 performance data

A contractor worked with the SWIC and Project Manager to reach out to each county, provide training and advice to accomplish the following while coordinating an assessment of that county's communication assets for inclusion in CASM:

1. Conduct outreach to first responder agencies in each non-UASI county to explain the capability assessment and performance assessment process associated with Goal 2.
2. Identify an official in each non-UASI county who will coordinate the assessment process for the county.
3. Provide training and assistance to each county representative in the completion of the capability assessment portion of the requirement.
4. Provide training and assistance to each county representative in determining and selecting the appropriate option for performance assessment.
5. Provide training and assistance to each county representative in the completion of required documentation and submission of the documentation to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator.

The single county (Clark) incorporated by the UASI will use data obtained from the GOAL 1 assessment completed on January 1, 2010. Typically, counties in Nevada have a single radio system operated by the county Sheriff that serves all public safety users in the county. In most such counties, that system is served by a single communication/dispatch center. Most such systems are legacy VHF systems. Neighboring counties commonly have each other's frequencies programmed into their user radios.

Outreach will begin upon receipt of the assessment details from DHS/OEC and will be completed prior to September 30, 2011. The completed report will be circulated to each of the counties for comment and concurrence prior to submission to DHS/OEC.