

## Communications Interoperability

Sec. 226. The Department of State Police, in cooperation with the Department of Information Technology and others, shall take steps to encourage the development of state, local, and regional tactical interoperable communication plans with the ultimate goal being to ensure that effective and efficient communication interoperability between radio communication systems of local, regional, state, and federal agencies is established in every area of the state. The department shall provide a written report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on state police and military and veterans affairs no later than April 1, 2011 on the current status of reaching this objective. The report shall include an accounting of exactly where within the state desired interoperability has been achieved and what cooperative measures and use of technology were used to achieve this interoperability, and which areas of the state have not yet achieved such status. The report shall also include a description of what strategies need to be employed to ensure that the remaining areas of the state, and the state as a whole, will have a communication system with efficient and effective interoperability, particularly on occasions when a multi jurisdictional response to an emergency is warranted.

The Department of State Police (MSP) and the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), working with public safety agencies statewide have developed a State of Michigan, Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan (TICP) meeting the requirements of Sec. 226. All seven of Michigan's Emergency Management Regions have completed writing and exercising their TICP's. Taking information submitted by the Regions through their TICP's, a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan has been developed and adopted by the State of Michigan. This information has been further incorporated into the development of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) released by the Department of Homeland Security. Recognizing that communications operability is a critical building block for interoperability, the NECP focuses on technology, coordination, governance, planning, usage, training, and exercises at all levels of government.

Currently, the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS) membership consists of approximately 1,816 local agencies, 21 state agencies and 38 federal agencies. These areas of the state have achieved interoperability through the MPSCS. In emergency or planned events, the remaining areas of the state achieve interoperability through a variety of other methods recognized as SAFECOM national guidelines. These methods include:

- 1) Swap Radios
- 2) Shared Channels
- 3) Gateways
- 4) Shared Systems

Both the MSP and the DTMB/MPSCS maintain a cache of loaner radios available for use during emergency situations to achieve interoperability. They are stored at three locations across the state and are available for immediate deployment. Using the "Swap Radios" method, the criteria for interoperable communications has been met statewide.

In accordance with the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) guidelines, common nomenclature has been adopted for all interoperable channels on the public safety bands. This action supports the "Shared Channels" method, further addressing the national criteria for interoperable communications.

Every county and city (with an emergency management program) in the state has at least one MPSCS radio provided through the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division programmed with all special event talk groups meeting the national criteria for "Shared Systems." Additionally, the MPSCS has established 54 gateway system patches between state and local/regional stand-alone radio systems supporting the "Gateway" criteria.

State and local agencies are using the Department of Homeland Security / Office of Emergency Communications (DHS/OEC) developed Communication Asset Survey and Mapping tool to inventory their current state of radio interoperability to fulfill the requirements of the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program for Regionalization and to assist in the migration of public safety radio narrow banding as outlined by the Federal Communication Commission by 2013.