



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

Meeting Agenda 9/10/25 at 2:00pm

MSP HQ – 1917 Room

1. **Call to Order & Board Member Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – March 12th, 2025 meeting**
3. **Additions & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
4. **Communications & Correspondence**
5. **1st Public Comment - Open to public comment (limited to 3 Minutes per person)**
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Updates - New Standard for Hospital talk-group naming on the MPSCS
7. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion - 2025 ICE STORM After Action Briefings
 - b. MPSCS 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 24 at 1:00pm
8. **Federal Updates**
 - a. CISA Emergency Communications Division
 - b. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG - Karl Arriola
9. **Statewide Updates**
 - a. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard
 - b. MPSCS System / Budget / Staffing
 - c. Agency/County/Member Additions to MPSCS
 - d. Current MPSCS Snapshot Data
 - Agencies = 2,629*
 - Radios = 155,471*
 - Dispatch Centers = 134*
 - Dispatch Consoles = 774*
 - Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 64*
 - Fire Pagers = 17,969 (Live & pending)*
10. **911 in Michigan**
 - a. Amy Thomas, State 911 Office
11. **Workgroup Reports**

- a. ***Communications Unit Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Nick Carpenter & Ray Hasil
 - b. ***AUXCOMM Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft & Max Schneider
 - c. ***Public Alerting Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft & Rob Dale
 - d. ***Building RF & Paging Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Al Mellon & Greg Janik
 - e. ***Encryption Workgroup*** – Chair: Tim Jones & Chris Kuhl
 - f. ***Security Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard
 - g. ***UASI Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Craig Swenson & Sean McCarthy
12. **2nd Public Comment - Open to public comment (limited to 3 Minutes per person)**
13. **Good of the Order - Announcements/Comments by Board Members**
14. **Adjournment**



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

3/12/25 Meeting Minutes

MSP HQ – Centennial Room

1. Vice-Chair Brad Stoddard called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Roll call was taken and is noted below.

Board Member	Present, Absent or Virtual
Ms. Brianna Briggs	Present
Mr. Gary Hagler	Present
Mr. Thomas LaFave	Present
Mr. Sean McCarthy	Present
Chief Edwin Miller	Present
Mr. Matthw Sahr	Virtual
Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier	Absent
Colonel Raymond Stemitz	Present
Mr. Brad Stoddard	Present
Captain Kevin Sweeney	Present -Inspector Michelle Sosinski
Mr. Art Thompson	Virtual
Mr. Bryce Tracy	Absent
Chief Jon Unruh	Present
Chief Edward Viverette	Present

Also in Attendance:

In Person Attendees	Virtual Attendees	
Greg Farrer	Matthew Sahr	Joe Bertram
Chris Russo	Tim Lee	Derek Flory
Al Mellon	Rob Dale	Dominque Clemente
Craig Swenson	Ted Roney	Nick Carpenter
Kathryn Hall	Ted Roney	Art Thompson
	Chris Kuhl	
	Max Schneider	
	Steve Rand	

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Edwin Miller, seconded by Mr. Sean McCarthy and carried to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

3. Additions and Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Chief Edward Viverette, seconded by Mr. Gary Hagler and carried to approve the March 12, 2025 meeting agenda as presented.

4. Communications and Correspondence: None

5. 1st Public Comment: None

6. Old Business:

a. Updates - FBI & MSP CJIS Requirements (LEIN Information via LMR)

Brad Stoddard reported that he wants to provide clarity. MPSCS is not requiring this, MSP CJIS is requiring this for any CJIS traffic over the radio. The board brought this to your attention, and this is not unique to Michigan, many other states have this dilemma.

b. Updates - New Standard for Hospital talk-group naming on the MPSCS

Chris Russo said there are no updates, and they are still in talks on this.

7. New Business

a. Review – 2025 Michigan Statewide Interoperable Communications Conference

Brad said he appreciated all those who participated in this conference. It was very well attended and had three other states join as well: Indian, Wisconsin and Connecticut. Connecticut spoke on the encryption challenges. There are changes happening at the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Center. They were formalizing managing the encryption slots and started it a year ago. There was conflict with the slots being used by federal and state agencies and it was creating some problems. They put a hold on new keys to clean the process up. A person leading on this retired and so there wasn't someone in that position. Scott Wright from Connecticut had some great concerns on this because we could go backwards potentially. We hope a new individual will be named. New vendors participated at the conference this year. It's the whole emergency communications ecosystem at the conference. Connecticut wants to model what we are doing in Michigan, and they want to do that. Indiana did that last year. This is our 15th year of the conference. For the first year they had only 20 attendees and second year was more formalized and had 50-60 attendees. Now we have over 300. Much of what we learned is that people get lost in a high attendance conference. A mid-size attendance helps with networking and learning. Once activity was moving people to a different table and then having conversations and building relationships. Sometimes people are uncomfortable with this type of activity. But by the third move to a new table people were having great conversations. Feedback was that was the best workshop we've ever done at any of our conferences. Brad asked if the Board members had any feedback.

Sean McCarthy said it was a very productive conference with excellent presentations. The networking was outstanding. Chief Edward Viverette said the most impactful presentation was the North Atlanta one. Using interop communications and facilitate the communications in that situation. Made him think how we would handle that. It was very insightful. Well put on by the staff, they did a great job.

Brad added he was just on a call with his counterpart from North Carolina, Greg. It was their first presentation on what they went through. There was a lot of good content. Brad wished they had asked them to record that. Just what they went through, things you wouldn't think of.

Chief Edward Vivierette added his in-laws were from the area. He knew the area and county. He thought that was the best session. McCarthy added that session was designed for 6 hours but they scaled it down for us. We could have had 2 slots on this, there was a lot a good information.

Brianna Briggs said the hybrid presentation went well. It was almost perfectly done, it felt seamless. Everyone was focused and not concerned about the virtual.

Colonel Raymond Stemitz added that there were speakers that brought the whole comms community together, like the North Carolina discussion and the national event in Milwaukee, those were seeing how the system is supposed to work -to include reaching out to AUXCOMM people. Outside discussions and the networking events, he met a lot of new people as a result of those. That was helpful. And he really appreciated the vendors that you brought in. He learned about some new technologies, and it was really helpful. Brad concluded, for those that couldn't attend, we hope you can attend next year. We try to make it affordable for our vendor partners. Primus for example have been there for many years. They are in test equipment. They find a lot of value in the conference. If you have any ideas for next year, please let us know. The feedback we got was saying we are going in the right direction.

8. Federal Updates

a. CISA Emergency Communications Division – Jim Stromberg

Jim Stromberg was not able to attend. Brad reviewed the slides Jim had sent as presented to the board ahead of time. Brad added that there is an individual up for the leadership position and waiting for a congress vote. He has experience with CISA. He is hopeful that leadership coming in will focus on critical infrastructure & emergency communications & will be more than prior leaders.

b. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG -Karl Arriola

Karl was not able to attend, and Brad reviewed a few items that Karl reviewed at the InterOp conference. The Region 5 has well over 500 members in the 6 states. They meet once a month and go through activities from each of the states.

9. Statewide Updates

a. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard

Brad reported that if you looked back at the last minutes meetings for agency numbers, it looks like we added more agencies than we did. However, there was an effort to pull each from Oakland County master and put them back to their agency. He said that about 27 years ago there was a handful of agencies and in about 1999 there was 152 agencies. To think that 27 years later with have over 2600 agencies that is pretty impressive. There was feedback from some of our Federal partners, they see the value in the system through the number of agencies and the collaboration. There is a jump in fire paging but that is due to different tracking for the system. We are continuing to see growth on the system across the board. Our people have been working on getting live and pending pagers confirmed and you will see we are just under 20,000 pagers on the system.

b. MPSCS System/Budget/Staffing

Still working on budget. We put together a proposal for DTMB prior to the 2025 budget that would have looked at remediation on the system. DTMB supported that and the budget office but was not supported in the Senate. The MPSCS team are working on this for long-term remediation. We still have a timeline and some of it's beginning to hit the system around 2030. We are trying to do what's best for public safety. We do know it's not part of the 2026 budget either.

c. Agency/County/Member Additions to MPSCS

Hillsdale Co millage passed in December. In Barry County we replaced our first tower in the system, the federal requirements on tower loading has decreased through the years and as Barry was adding more equipment, we couldn't put any more on that tower. We dismantled the tower and will use in a county that doesn't have one. At beginning not every county needed a tower to be successful. But now as we looked across the state, we saw some counties that could use one. We will probably put the tower in the Gladwin County and hopefully this year.

d. Current MPSCS Snapshot Data

- i. *Agencies = 2,609*
- ii. *Radios = 151,755*
- iii. *Dispatch Centers = 128*
- iv. *Dispatch Consoles = 772*
- v. *Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 64*
- vi. *Fire Pagers = 17,268*

10. 911 in Michigan

a.

Brad introduced the new State 911 Director, Amy Thomas. She has been in the position for a month now. He appreciated Cindy filling in until Amy was hired.

Amy reviewed her report that was submitted to the board ahead of time. Cindy said she would like to see some of Brad's people submit something this year. She said Jerry Nummer sits on their work group, and they spoke on this. Brad said they welcomed the opportunity so submit on this. She said Jerry mentioned something about radios and it should be PSAP technology related. Randy said he thought they could bring something.

11. Workgroup Reports

- a. ***Communications Unit Workgroup*** - Co-chairs Ray Hasil and Nick Carpenter. Nick Carpenter reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added they will be cancelling the April meeting since it's so close to the in-person meeting. Brad added that Nick will be the one to give reports at these meetings as Ray is stepping back to work on other things.
- b. ***AUXCOMM Workgroup*** - Co-chairs Max Schneider and Jaclyn Barcroft. Max Schneider reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that had 5 additional volunteers and that brings us up to 37 volunteers who have been recognized. They will participate in the spring statewide AUXCOMM exercise. They will participate in Cobalt Magnet exercise. Brad added that Max, Jaclyn, and the team recognized District 7 member, Chuck Brew, CCE PSCO, as AUXCOMM Person of the Year. Max thanked Chuck for all his help too.
- c. ***Public Alerting Workgroup*** - Co-chairs Jaclyn Barcroft and Rob Dale. Rob Dale reviewed their report as submitted ahead of time to the board. He showed some slides to review his material. He added that their meetings are the first Wednesday a month, once a quarter there is a virtual, hour-long meeting. Invites anyone to attend that are interested. He said they are trying to revitalize the connections between the emergency management side and the broadcast side. If your county is in gray and want to join, please contact him or Jaclyn Barcroft. He said if you are in Ingham, Eaton, or Clinton Counties, there will be a live WEA next Wednesday at 12:59p to remind people of the statewide annual tornado drill notice. FEMA is excited that we are doing this tri-county test as its not been done before. It will be exciting to see.
- d. ***Building RF & Fire Paging Workgroup*** - Co-chairs: Greg Farrer & Greg Janik –
Greg reviewed the report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that since the InterOp conference presentation, Chief Janik got a request for more information about the BDAs and the issues. He received communication from another fire chief that one of their schools had 2 different coverage assessments done and they said different things. He and Janik talked about adding what the requests are on the report. So, they can compare the reports. Since now they cannot do a comparison. He had lots of communications from City of Detroit that their BDAs installed by vendors they we didn't know about. So, we need to work on our communications out that they need to work with the licensees. Al Mellon added that microsite deployed at Hamilton was shut off by the vendor and the local agency didnt realize it was gone, but did learn it worked better with it. Also, the paging map, shows some counties are pending but they are implanted. He will update those things.

The Saginaw dispatch center had an outage and some fire depts didn't received alerts. They were using IM responding.

- e. **Encryption Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Tim Jones & Chris Kuhl –Chris Kuhl reviewed the report submitted to the board ahead of time. He added at InterOp Conference they walked through items on CISA. The MSP Auditors will be asking and looking at the data that should be encrypted. He asked the group members where to take the group in 2025. A little thin on items for the agenda, so wanted ideas from them. Al Mellon wants to add a topic to encryption agenda, one day at home he heard the zone is 50% not encrypted and they revealed specific details of a case they were working on. He thinks maybe we can look for tools in the NCC Maybe we should discuss that with the work group.
 - i. Chris also added information about the hospitals talkgroups. The have met several times. They are trying to come up with a naming convention for hospitals. This is for EMS to ER communication. Other talkgroups can have whatever process they would like. But this is different as the hospitals change names so often that we are creating talkgroup alias that is no longer valid. Discovered that Bill Forebush who is the rep of the EMSCC Communications Subcommittee at MDHHS was working on this too, so they joined forces with him. In April the small group will convene and have some dialogue on that. This is a long-term effort so don't think that talkgroup names will change this year or even next year. It's progressing very well and appreciates the input from the group.
- f. **Security Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard –

Brad reviewed the report as presented to the board ahead of time. He added that a significant amount of effort on the cyber security grants, he reviewed 94 of them and gives you a good perspective on. A reminder that we need speakers for Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference is in May. The work group meets bi-monthly if anyone wants to participate. The work group is to collaborate with physical and cyber security. Today he saw that Feds are backing off support of MSI SAC. They help local and state agencies around cyber. They will not continue financial support.
- g. **UASI Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Craig Swenson & Sean McCarthy. –Craig Swenson said there was no meeting held so they did not have any information to share.

12. 2nd Public Comment: Craig Swenson said Brad did a great job with the InterOp Conference. He wants the board to remember that small groups and dispatchers need our help too. The importance of good communications for the day to day, is it trains the user for the big event. Regarding CJIS, he thinks the issue is a challenge to this group because if another agency can come to this group and tell them that one dept can't talk to the other, that is problematic. One issue is the equipment, and it would be nice to have a roadmap for this. He doesn't like that there was a complaint about firefighters not hearing police. His question is what problem we are trying to solve; he doesn't understand. He started his career as a dispatcher. He knows CJIS is trying to protect personal information. So please give that a lot of thought about what can we do to compromise on this issue.

Brad replied that we are seeing a turnover in the 911 space and emergency managers. We recognize that not only was there a turnover happening, but new people didn't have those relationships, who they reach out to. The trend we are seeing is some new people just call the NCC even if the problem is not with the MPSCS. We have had twice a year meetings with PFN and they heard the same thing. We have ramped up our discussions with PFN to be sure we are on the same page. In fall last year, president of MEMA called him to say they are having a lot of turnover. They don't have the same relationship with the MPSCS that they used to. Brad talked with three people at the conference, to ask for help with this. They fixed the problem right there. The last few months we have been out with every one of the district coordinators and their regional meetings with EMs. We will continue that, so our local partners know who we are and contact info. We have supervisors in every region, and they have relationships in the area. Our intent is to continue to build the relationships, so they know who to call. We shifted Chris Kuhl to a different role to go out to our partners and he asks what is working and what's not working. In a one-on-one scenario, they will ask the questions. If you hear things out there, we are interested. We try to have a booth at each of fraternal conferences. We are there to answer questions and provide education. It's where collaboration between MPSCS and the board helps the state succeed. If you find someone we need to talk to out there, let us know. There are many times we are looked at as just radio, but we are more than that, including the infrastructure. There are still states across the nation that are trying to do everything they can to be like us. Some states say they will be better than us, but we encourage that.

Brad added that this is the 30th anniversary of MPSCS. If any board members are interested in being in a podcast or a short video on our 30 years, please let Board Clerk, Kathryn Hall, know. We also have a to-go kit, and we can come to you as well. We'd like to capture your thoughts on the anniversary. You are the voices for your community. If you know someone else in your community that would like to be involved, please let us know. September is the culmination of our big year.

13. Good of the Order: None

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Raymond Stemitz and seconded by Sean McCarthy. The meeting adjourned at 3:31pm.

**Interoperability Board Meeting
State 911 Office Report
March 12, 2025**

- The 2025 911 Technology Forum will be held September 15-17 at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor.

- The FCC created the 25-143 Report to Order which says when giving notice to the carriers, they have one year, or six months if it's a nationwide carrier, to go to Phase I, which, in the FCC environment, means the 911 call will be delivered in an IP-format. There is currently only one local carrier that is not sending calls via SIP. Then, Phase II is the ESRP which has a location validation function, a list for location information server, and all the data contained within will come from the state GIS repository. The call comes into the PSAP with that location information. If looking for a new CPE, it will need to be able to process information in an i3v3 format. After every PSAP is Phase I, then the FCC Phase II request can be made.

- GIS Repository Work continues to get all counties and PSAPs to enter and update their data. Training is currently being held for data importers. A GIS workgroup has been put together to work with partners to develop a best practices policy for addressing and mapping for the state. NENA released the GIS data model 3.0, the workgroup is evaluating how it applies to the address best practices being created. Part of the best practices includes standardizing the lat/long of an address as it varies statewide.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD
LANSING

STATUS/UPDATE OF CURRENT ACTIONS REPORT TO THE MPSCIB – COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
WORKGROUP

September 2025 Update

Interop Board Action Items

Identify actions or decisions the workgroup is requiring of the board

No actionable items to report.

New Items

List items for update and awareness for the board's knowledge since the last quarterly report – Mission Statement

We conducted our first meeting for updating and reworking the Michigan Field Operations Guide, with assistance from CISA partners and our subject matter experts on the COMU workgroup.

What's on the Horizon

Identify any work efforts, meetings, or information for upcoming activities the board should be aware of. – Goals

The workgroup continues to work on the Field Operations Guide for the next several months to get it updated, with biweekly meetings planned. The last update to this guide was January 2023 and much has changed since then.

Training and Exercises

Identify any training or exercises the workgroup has or will be participating in

There will be a state-sponsored Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) course starting October 6th until the 10th, in Mashall, MI. There are already 14 students registered.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD

LANSING

STATUS OF CURRENT ACTIONS REPORT TO THE MPSCIB SEPTEMBER 2025—AUXCOMM WORK GROUP

Interop Board Action Items

None

New Items

Six additional volunteers became state recognized AUXCs, bringing the roster to a total of 53:

- David Nobles—Oceana
- Alexander Fera—Kent
- Matthew Miller—Houghton/Keweenaw
- Lee Durrwachter—Alger
- David Erickson—Luce
- Bill LeVeque—Alger

What's on the Horizon

Planning is underway for the Fall statewide AUXCOMM exercise (Fall SET) and scheduled for October 4.

Training and Exercises

AUXCOMM participated in a functional exercise with FEMA Region 5 and Region 5 for KIDS on June 18. The after action report is in process. AUXCOMM also participated in the evaluated exercise for the DC Cook nuclear plant on June 24, and the drills and evaluated exercise for the Palisades nuclear plant in July.

A communications exercise was held concurrent with the Labor Day Bridge Walk on September 1. Four trainees from Districts 7 and 8 participated in the exercise, and all four completed their task books.



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PUBLIC ALERTING WORK GROUP REPORT TO THE MPSCIB –SEPTEMBER 2025

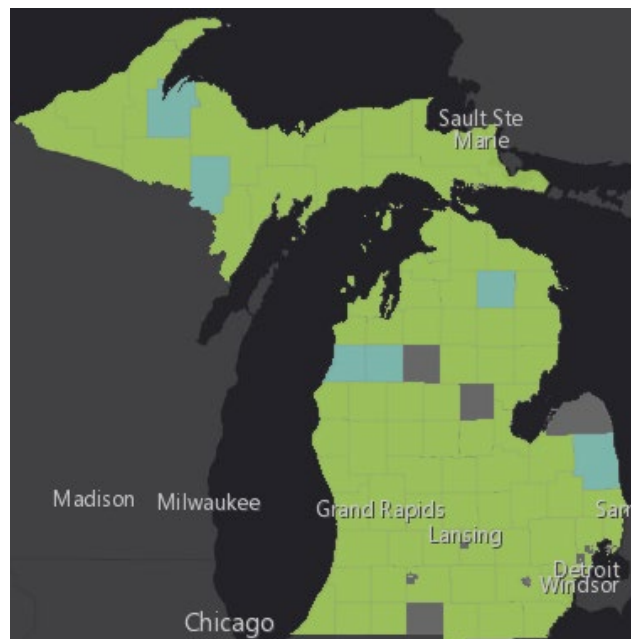
Interop Board Action Items

Identify actions or decisions the workgroup is requiring of the board

New Items

List items for update and awareness for the board's knowledge since the last quarterly report.

- July 16 – Live IPAWS alert test in Van Buren, Berrien, and Allegan Counties as part of the reopening of the Palisades nuclear power plant. 98.6% of those completing the after survey stated they received the messages. 98% of WEA messages delivered within one minute.
 - All counties sent out multiple press releases, social media posts, and had public meetings in advance of the test.
- 82 total Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Alerting Authorities (AA), 73 out of 83 counties (88%) are IPAWS AA. Alcona Co is the new AA this quarter. Sanilac and Montmorency Counties actively in process.



- IPAWS usage statewide 1/1/25-8/31/25: 84 live Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) total. (Map image on next page)
- MSP/EMHSD's "Michigan Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications Plan" is nearly finalized.

What's on the Horizon

Identify any work efforts, meetings, or information for upcoming activities the board should be aware of

- Public Alerting Work Group Quarterly Meeting took place 8/13/25. Next meeting scheduled for 11/5/25.
 - Brainstorming new ideas for SCIP update.
- Discussions are taking place on guidelines for using new Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) event code. Once guidelines are created, State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) to discuss how to implement in Michigan.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD LANSING

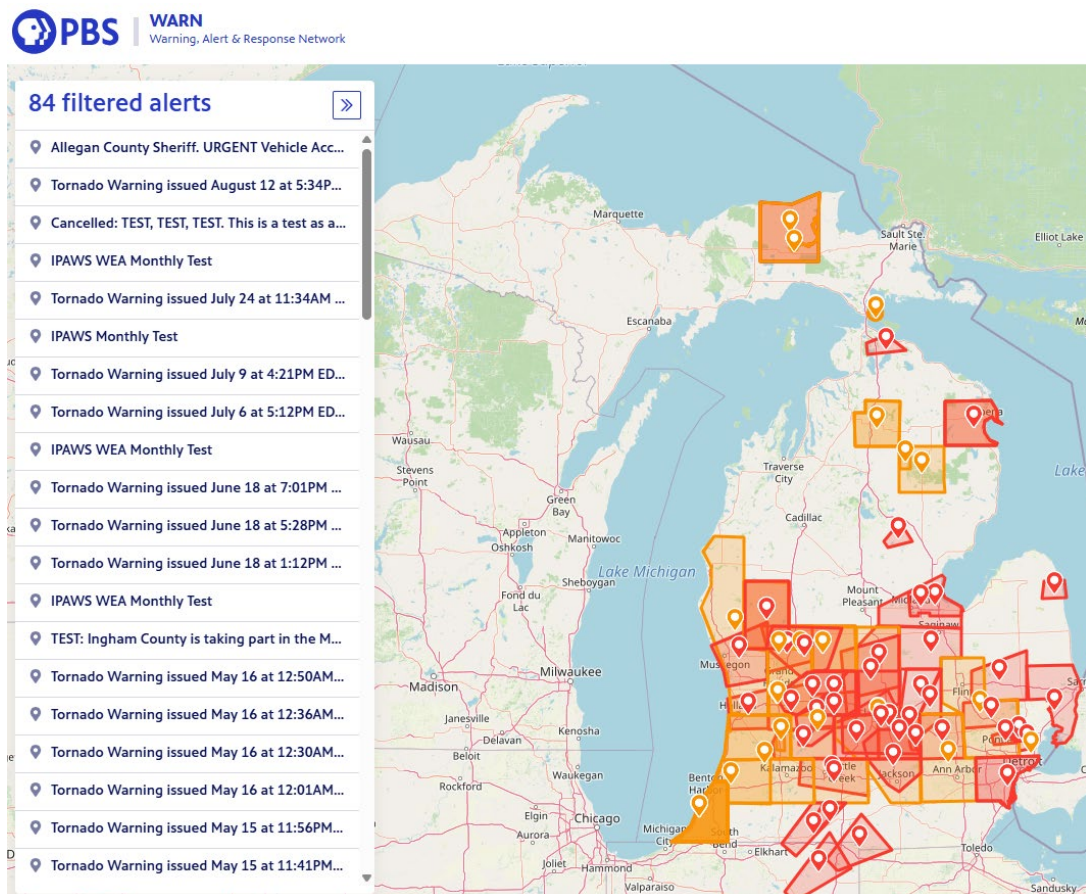
- Redundant EAS Project: Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) is working with contractor to install GSSNet Satellite EAS system at local primary (LP) stations.
 - 3 installs left to complete – WIMI/Ironwood, WUPS/Harrison, WOLV/Houghton
 - Next part of project will be to assess generator needs.

Training and Exercises

Identify any training or exercises the workgroup has or will be participating in

- Alert and Warning presentation with WEA writing exercise at the 2025 911 Technology Forum – Sept. 17.
- Alert and Warning presentation with WEA writing exercise at the 2025 Campus Connections – Oct. 21
- 2026 Statewide Exercise will take place February 3, 2026. There will be a focus on Alerts & Warnings and Alerting on Behalf (AOB). Work group stood up to coordinate this part of the exercise design.

84 IPAWS Messages Sent 1/1/25-8/31/25





STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD

LANSING

STATUS/UPDTAE OF CUURENT ACTIONS REPORT TO THE MPSCIB – BUILDING RF AND PAGING WORKGROUP

September 2025 Update

Interop Board Action Items

Identify actions or decisions the workgroup is requiring of the board

None.

New Items

List items for update and awareness for the board's knowledge since the last quarterly report – Mission Statement

In Building Coverage and BDAs

- The Building RF and Pager Workgroup is having discussions and documenting what information needs to be gathered and tracked regarding BDA installations.
- The Safer Buildings Coalition has filed a petition with the FCC to request that the FCC establish a framework for requesting, evaluating, granting, and tracking express consent from licensees for signal booster installations.
- The 2024 update to IFC Section 510 has resulted in several changes to the requirements for in-building coverage.

Paging

- Calhoun County has been experiencing pager issues on their new county wide simulcast. MPSCS is investigating whether system coverage or pager settings are causing the issues experienced.
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STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD

LANSING

What's on the Horizon

Identify any work efforts, meetings, or information for upcoming activities the board should be aware of. – Goals

Next workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

Training and Exercises

Identify any training or exercises the workgroup has or will be participating in



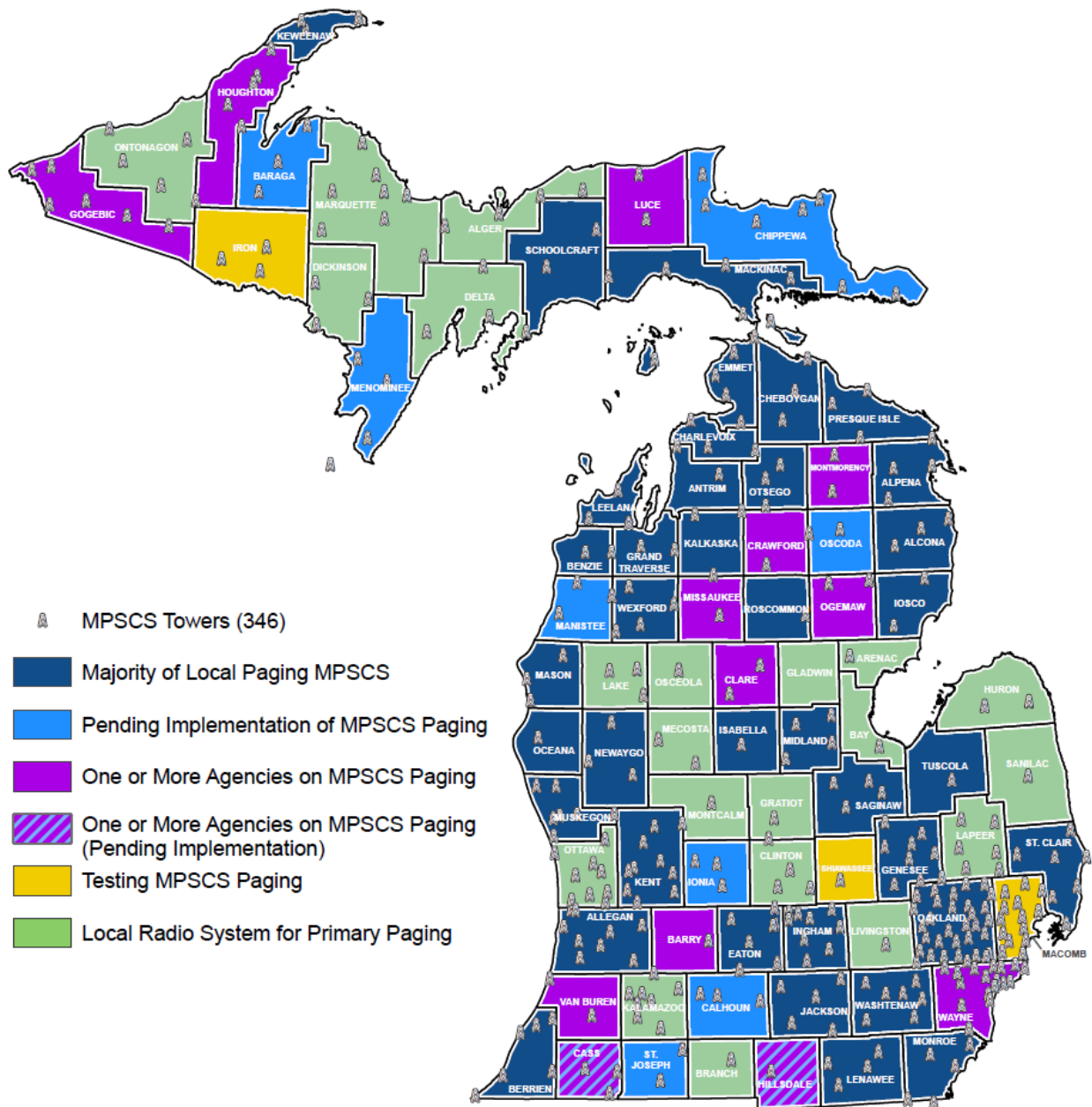
STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD

LANSING



Michigan's Public Safety Communications System Public Safety Paging



*State, federal, tribal, and private first responders utilize MPSCS communication in all 83 counties.

12/10/2024

510.4.1.1, 510.4.1.2

ERCES Signal Strength

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The measurement of the downlink signal strength in an ERCES system is based on the Delivered Audio Quality of 3.0.

2024 CODE TEXT: 510.4.1.1 Minimum signal strength into the building. The minimum inbound downlink signal strength shall be sufficient to provide usable voice communications throughout the coverage area as specified by the fire code official. The inbound downlink signal level shall be a minimum of -95 dBm throughout the coverage area and sufficient to provide not less than a Delivered Audio Quality (DAQ) of 3.0 throughout the coverage area using either narrowband analog, digital or wideband LTE signals or an equivalent bit error rate (BER), or signal-to-interference-plus-noise-ratio (SINR) applicable to the technology for either analog or digital signals.

510.4.1.2 Minimum signal strength out of the building. The minimum outbound uplink signal strength shall be sufficient to provide usable voice communications throughout the coverage area as specified by the fire code official. The outbound uplink signal level shall be sufficient to provide not less than a delivered audio quality (DAQ) of 3.0 using either narrowband analog, digital or wideband LTE signals or an equivalent bit error rate (BER), or an equivalent SINR applicable to the technology for either analog or digital signals.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: In-building, two-way emergency responder communication enhancement systems (ERCES) must be listed and address fire safety and shock safety. A minimum acceptable signal criteria must be achieved and maintained throughout 95 percent of all areas on each floor of a building. A stronger signal must be maintained in critical areas. These areas include exit stairways, exit passageways, elevator lobbies, equipment rooms and fire command centers.



Signal strength must be of sufficient strength to have radios function throughout a building. (Photo courtesy of AlenaPaulus/E+ via Getty Images)

In some buildings, there may be additional areas that are considered critical for communication. Minimal signal strength has been set at -95 dBm inbound signal strength and a delivered audio quality (DAQ) of 3.0.

Changes to the 2024 IFC clarify the intent in Section 510.4.1 to provide usable communications for all technologies available for ERCES. Several solutions are available such as analog, digital and LTE technologies. Many communications systems are in use by public safety agencies in the United States and have different operational characteristics. The prescribed signal strength is specified as a DAQ of 3.0 for analog, digital or LTE signals. However, for analog and digital signals, other measurement methods can be acceptable. These other methods are the bit error rate (BER) and the signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio (SINR).

The signal strength of the downlink signal is no longer required to meet two criteria. The measurement of -95 dBm is not required and the DAQ of 3.0 is the threshold to meet. The definition of DAQ 3.0 is "speech is understandable with slight effort, with occasional repetition due to noise or distortion."

510.4.2.8, 510.4.2.9

Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement System (ERCES)

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: Additional requirements are included for emergency responder communications enhancement systems to deal with signal interference and the near-far effect.

2024 CODE TEXT: **510.4.2.8 Radio communication antenna density Near-far effect.** ~~Systems shall be engineered to minimize the near-far effect. In-building, two-way emergency responder communication coverage system designs shall include sufficient antenna density to address reduced gain conditions. Where a signal booster is required by the RF system designer, the dynamic range of the in-building emergency responder communications enhancement system shall be designed to minimize the effects of strong signal automatic gain control on weak signal uplink performance.~~

Exception: ~~Systems where all portable devices within the same band use active power control features:~~

510.4.2.9 Noise interference. Where a signal booster is used, signal booster type(s) and the uplink signal and noise levels shall be coordinated with and approved by all frequency license holder(s) that may be adversely impacted by any transmitted noise resulting from the in-building emergency responder communications enhancement system. Systems shall be in compliance with all frequency licensing authority requirements.

SECTION 202 DEFINITIONS

EMERGENCY RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM (ERCES). An infrastructure solution installed within a building to enhance the communications capabilities for first responders that utilizes solu-



Large concrete and steel buildings can be difficult to send a signal through. A booster may be required. (Photo courtesy of Erik Isakson/Tetra images via Getty Images)

tions such as a signal booster, voting receiver, base station or other technology capable of enhancing the radio frequency (RF) to ensure effective public safety communications.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Near-far problems arise when a passive distributed antenna system (DAS) is not designed correctly and is caused when a transmission from a portable radio in close proximity (i.e., near) to the DAS antenna overpowers the uplink amplifier. When this occurs the near portable radio uses up the available gain of the bi-directional amplifier (BDA) so that another transmission happening at the same time on a different frequency from a radio that is further away from a DAS antenna (i.e., far) would not be amplified as much. The near-far problem can be an issue with an improperly designed Class A channelized or Class B broadband BDAs.

Section 510.4.2.8 now uses the newly defined term, ERCES, to indicate equipment used to enhance radio coverage.

Additional changes in Sections 510.4.2.8 and 510.4.2.9 align text with conditions that occur when a signal booster is improperly designed or installed and creates a near-far condition. Creating a near-far condition is a life safety condition for emergency responders because it results in their communications devices not working properly.

Involving the frequency license holder throughout the design process provides the opportunity for those legally responsible for operating the public safety macro communications system to determine the overall impact the solution will have on their system. They can then make recommendations that provide for a functional solution. In the United States, it is a federal requirement that the frequency license holder must provide written consent to activate a signal booster on their communications system. The result of an improperly designed and installed signal booster system results in harmful noise/interference. Section 510.4.2.9 on noise/interference provides requirements to make sure a functional solution is selected. Frequency license holders must also be given the locations where existing and new signal boosters are located as multiple signal boosters placed too close to each other create harmful interference. The frequency license holder needs to maintain a list of locations where systems have been installed.

2024 IFC Section 510 – Key Changes

1. Clearer Testing Requirements (510.5.3, 510.5.4)

Rules now explain more clearly how testing must be done, who can perform it, and how often.

2. Acceptance Testing Before Occupancy (510.5.3)

New buildings must prove reliable radio coverage for emergency responders before people move in.

3. Annual (and Ongoing) Testing (510.6.1, 510.6.2)

Existing systems must be tested every year. Re-testing is also required after renovations, radio system changes, or new obstructions.

4. Minimum Performance Levels (510.4.1, 510.4.2)

- Coverage: At least 95% of each floor must meet this requirement; 99% coverage is required in critical areas (fire command centers, exit stairs, fire pump rooms, electrical rooms, etc.).
- Delivered Audio Quality (DAQ): Must meet DAQ 3.0 or better, meaning speech can be understood clearly without repeating.

5. System Design Standards (510.4.2.5, 510.4.2.6, 510.4.2.7)

Antennas, cables, and related equipment must be protected from fire and damage. Backup power: System must run for at least 24 hours on batteries or a generator.

6. Exemptions / Alternatives (510.1, 510.3)

If a building already has strong natural radio coverage, it may be exempt from extra equipment. Wired firefighter phone systems may be approved as an alternative if the fire code official allows it.

Plain English Takeaway

The 2024 IFC Section 510 ensures that first responders can talk clearly anywhere inside a building, with strong signal levels, nearly full coverage, annual testing, and backup power. DAQ 3.0 is now the clear benchmark for voice clarity.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD
LANSING

STATUS OF CURRENT ACTIONS REPORT TO THE MPSCIB
9/10/25– ENCRYPTION WORKGROUP

Interop Board Action Items

None

New Items

- MSP LEIN/CJIS guidance- Myself and Chair Tim Jones continue to provide clarification and education on the guidance document provided by MSP. Chris K through his outreach efforts has visited multiple agencies to discuss this topic typically with Police Chiefs/Sheriffs and LEIN TAC committees.
 - There continues to be a lot of confusion regarding this mandate, specifically that **all users** must be encrypted by 2026 which is not accurate.
 - Benzie Co is fully operational with OTAR and AES encryption as of early June
 - Otsego Co has submitted requests for new talkgroups as they begin migration to an AES environment and secure dispatching for law enforcement
 - L Event talkgroup bulletin was sent in May informing users that appropriately equipped radios would be able to utilize L Event's if requested through the NCC.
 - L Event 94 had been open for most of the summer statewide for testing
 - Isabella Co has created and submitted a plan to move to AES encryption and secure dispatching on all law enforcement talkgroups.
 - Isabella will continue dispatching law operations in the clear until the MSP Mount Pleasant post has AES capability in their radios.
 - Livingston Co is in the beginning phase of migrating to AES encryption with the creation of new talkgroups. Talkgroups are currently not programmed or in use.
 - Down River Mutual Aid will be fully AES capable/compliant once their integration project is complete.
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What's on the Horizon

Additional Information

Training and Exercises



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD
LANSING

STATUS/UPDATE OF CURRENT ACTIONS REPORT TO THE MPSCIB - SECURITY WORKGROUP

September 2025 Update

Interop Board Action Items

Identify actions or decisions the workgroup is requiring of the board

- None at this time

New Items

List items for update and awareness for the boards knowledge since the last quarterly report

- Work group members had participated in multiple meetings related to the Cyber Security grant.
- Hosted a quarterly security workgroup meeting this past quarter (July 28)

What's on the Horizon

Identify any work efforts, meetings, or information for upcoming activities the board should be aware of. – Goals

- Security Workgroup members will continue to be involved with the development and implementation of future FY cyber grants
- Work group members are actively assisting in the development of speakers for our Inter Op Conference and GLHSC (both in 2026)

Training and Exercises

Identify any training or exercises the workgroup has or will be participating in

- Next bi monthly slated for Sept 22 at 2pm
- Committee members participated in the Holtec/Palisades LLC Nuclear Power Plan Evaluated Exercise
- Committee members participated in MING briefing w UK Soldiers reference the Cyber Disruption Response Plan