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Upcoming Events

August 7-10, 2011: APCO
International Conference

August 18, 2011: COML
Committee Meeting

August 23-25, 2011: Fall
2011 OEMA Conference

September 10, 2011:
Septemberfest

October 3-7, 2011:
COMT Course

Communications Component Included in Midwest City Full-Scale Exercise

By: David Richardson, Midwest City Fire Department

On April 22, 2011, Midwest City conducted a Full Scale Exercise on the Rose State College campus. The exercise involved an "Active Shooter" scenario. Key players in the exercise included Midwest City Police, Fire, Rose State Police and Midwest Regional EMS.

One of the objectives of the exercise involved evaluating the communications component. The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) description of the capability evaluation was as follows: "Communications is the fundamental capability within disciplines and jurisdictions that practitioners need to perform the most routine and basic elements of their job functions. Agencies must be operable, meaning they possess sufficient wireless communications capabilities to meet their daily internal and emergency communication requirements before they focus on interoperability."

All players in this exercise operated on the Oklahoma Wireless Information Network (OKWIN), allowing them to have the ability to access all the Regional Mutual Aid and State Mutual Aid channels

should the Incident Commander (IC) or Communications Unit Leader (COML) choose one of those banks for incident communications. But that also was determined to be the main communications issue during this exercise. More or less out of convenience, only one channel was chosen for the entire incident which was overcrowded for the scale and complexity of the event. No COML was ever requested

to assist. Ultimately or ideally, first responders should be provided with command, tactical and support communications networks requested by the Incident Commander.

(Continued on Page 2.)



MWC Tact Team members and firefighters enter a building at Rose State College during a full-scale exercise involving an "Active Shooter" scenario.

Midwest City FSE (Continued from page 1)

As was evident with this exercise, public safety has come a very long way in terms of communications interoperability among agencies. The ability for dispatch to quickly relay the IC orders to go to channel "X" across the board showed the smooth and easy transition a com-

mon operating system creates for an incident. The next step or evolution will be to educate to expand upon capabilities of the system in order to use its full potential and call upon a COML to assist with the coordination of radio communications.

Note: David Richardson is a Major with the Midwest City Fire Department. Richardson and Mike Bower (Midwest City Emergency Manager and retired MWCFD Fire Chief) served as the Exercise leads for the April 22, 2011, Rose State College "Active Shooter" Full Scale Exercise.

COMT Workshop to be Offered in October

Oklahoma will host an All-Hazards Communications Unit Technician (COMT) Course during the week of October 3rd in Oklahoma City. This course is being offered through the Office of Emergency Communication's (OEC) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program.

The COMT class is targeted for all local, regional, state and federal cross disciplinary emergency response professionals and coor-

dination/support personnel with a communications background. Individuals who are assigned responsibility for a Strategic Technology Reserve (radio cache, mobile communications vehicle, or other deployable communications assets) are encouraged to attend.

According to OEC, this five-day course is presented with facilitated lecture, student exercises and hands-on lab work. Instructors will work through the discussions, exercises

and hands-on work to explain processes used for successful establishment and operation of the technical communications resources supporting an incident or planned event.

If you would like to participate, please visit www.homelandsecurity.ok.gov to register. The last day to register is September 19, 2011. Enrollment is limited and each registrant's credentials will be reviewed by the Oklahoma COML Committee.

OKFOG Roll-Out

The Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG) is now in the process of being distributed to public safety agencies across the state. The OKFOG is a pocket-sized communications quick-reference booklet for first responders.

The initial roll-out was at the Region 1 Regional Council Meeting on August 2. OKOHS will con-

tinue to distribute the OKFOGs to the remaining Regional Councils throughout the fall.

There will also be an Introduction to the OKFOG presentation given during the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association's (OEMA) 2011 Fall Conference on August 24, 2011. Attendees will have an opportunity to pick-up an OKFOG and

participate in a short training.

All public safety agencies in the state of Oklahoma may request copies of the OKFOG for their responders. Copies of the OKFOG can be requested by contacting IOC@dps.state.ok.us. Additional information regarding the OKFOG and an electronic version will be available at www.ioc.ok.gov.

CASM Workshop

On July 16, 2011, a Communications Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Tool Workshop was held in Oklahoma City for members of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) and its working groups. This was the third workshop of the year provided by the Office of Emergency Communication's Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program.

The workshop served as a refresher course for those who were already familiar with CASM and as

an introductory course for those who had no experience with the tool. Members of the SIGB who had not previously set-up an account with CASM received authorization during the workshop.

CASM is a free automated tool for public safety agencies to store, retrieve and visualize radio communications assets. It consists of two components: Communication Assets Survey (CAS) and Communication Assets Mapping (CAM). The CAS component is for data

entry of state and local communications information and assets, while the CAM component allows authorized personnel to display and manipulate the data using maps.

Public safety officials who would like to participate in CASM may send authorization requests to Nikki Cassingham at ncassing@dps.state.ok.us. Additional information, along with monthly training dates, is available at www.ioc.ok.gov.

Septemberfest 2011 to Feature Oklahoma Regional Response System

The 15th Annual Septemberfest will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 10am to 4pm on the grounds of the Governor's mansion. Septemberfest is an annual event designed to provide free entertainment and education to families regarding Oklahoma's history, heritage, resources and traditions.

Once again, OKOHS plans to conduct a staging and deployment exercise of the Oklahoma Regional Response System during the event. Last year the exercise was a mock incident, allowing first responders to utilize interoperable communications and practice managing an incident. The main objectives during last year's exercise included test-



The mobile communications and command unit, Command-1, is staged along NE 23rd Street in Oklahoma City during Septemberfest 2010.

ing the communication capabilities, including the functions of the Communications Unit Leader, for the Oklahoma Regional Response System and the Check-in, deployment, staging and response procedures of the Oklahoma Regional Response System through Incident Command System guidelines.

Oklahoma Regional Response System units will be staged along NE 23rd Street, just south of the Oklahoma History Center. The exercise and public viewing will provide visitors with an opportunity to visit with Regional Response Team members, tour the units and learn the importance of preparing for disaster in Oklahoma.



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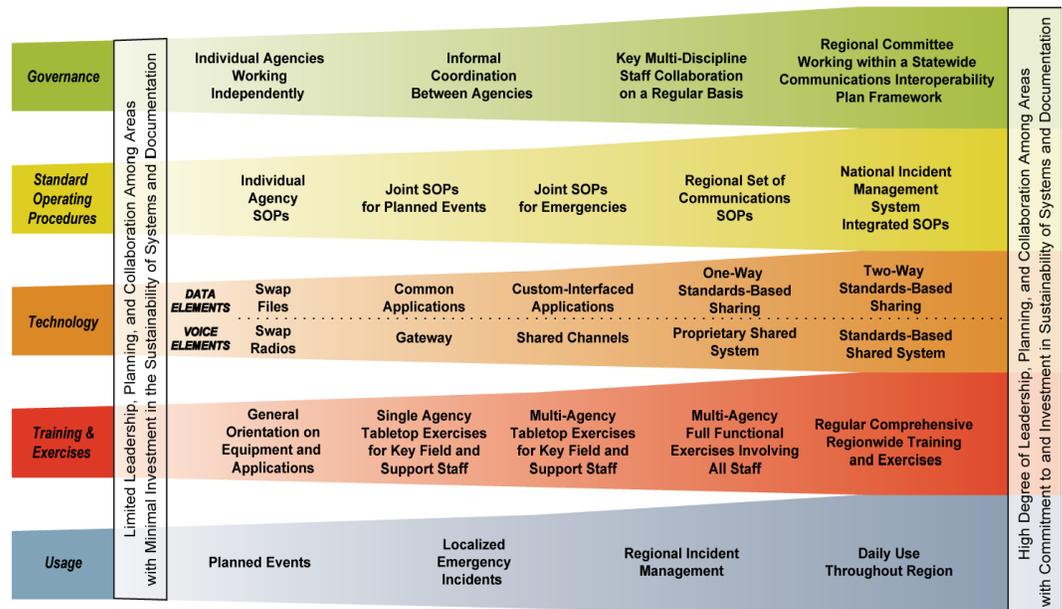
Announcements

NECP Goal 2 Update

County Emergency Managers have only six weeks remaining to submit their data for the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2. There will be a presentation given during the OEMA 2011 Fall Conference on August 24, 2011. Representatives of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Planning Division will be available to assist Emergency Managers with their NECP Goal 2 data entry. Data for all 77 Oklahoma counties must be submitted with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Implementation Report due September 30, 2011.

OK Certified COML Instructors

Three Oklahoma certified Communications Unit Leaders (COML) recently received their COML Instructor Certification. Don Lynch, John Comstock and Lucien Jones attended out-of-state Train-the-Trainer Courses, serving as adjunct instructors. These three COMLs are now certified to instruct the All-Hazards Type III COML Course. Today, there are a limited number of certified COMLs in Oklahoma, and their Instructor Certification gives them the ability to train additional much needed personnel.



Oklahoma has adopted the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum as a guide and directional goal to gain seamless communications interoperability across the state.

About the Oklahoma Interoperability Newsletter

The *Oklahoma Interoperability Newsletter* is designed to be a source of information, news and updates for stakeholders committed to public safety communications interoperability in the state of Oklahoma. We hope that it will serve as a valuable resource for you. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or for comments or suggestions, please contact Nikki Cassingham at ncassing@dps.state.ok.us or Chelsea Grogan at cgrogan@dps.state.ok.us.