

Interoperability Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

February 16: SCIP
Implementation
Workshop

February 17: COM-L
Committee Meeting

March 9-11: IWCE
Conference and
Exposition,
Las Vegas, NV

Governor Fallin names new OKOHS director

Governor Mary Fallin has selected Kim Edd Carter as the new Oklahoma Homeland Security Director.

Carter has more than 33 years of experience in law enforcement and served as the fusion center coordinator and program manager for information sharing at the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) since 2007. A press release from Governor Fallin's office highlights Carter's extensive background in public safety, including his 26 years with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). During his tenure at OSBI, he achieved the rank of assistant director of the investigative division where he managed more than 100 employees, including law enforcement officers and civilian employees. Prior to joining OSBI, Carter was a patrol officer with the Oklahoma City Police Department.

"I am honored Governor Fallin has selected me to serve in her administration," Carter said. "I look forward to working with the governor to ensure our state and our citizens are protected from any and all homeland security threats."

Carter replaces Colonel Kerry Pettingill who was appointed Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

"Leaving OKOHS was a very difficult decision for me to make," said Colonel Pettingill. "Because I knew that I would be limited by the term of Governor Henry, who appointed me to Director of Homeland Security, my end goal was to be able

to look across the state and know that we at OKOHS had done a good job."

A priority throughout Colonel Pettingill's term with OKOHS was the enhancement of interoperable communications across the state.

"Communications has always been an issue for first responders during any large event throughout the world, and unfortunately it remains so today. During my tenure, with support from then Governor Brad Henry, we were able to make progress in the area of communications including launching the Oklahoma Wireless Information Network, developing and enhancing the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, developing an Oklahoma Field Operations Guide and working toward meeting the Federal Communications Commission's Narrowbanding Mandate and the remaining goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan."

Colonel Pettingill praised Governor Fallin's appointment of the new Oklahoma Homeland Security Director.

"I've had the privilege to know and work with Kim for many years. He's a man of high integrity, well respected and an all-around true professional," Pettingill said. "He will serve Governor Fallin and the people of Oklahoma well, just as he has for the past 33 years."

Oklahoma establishes COM-L committee

By John Comstock, Oklahoma County Emergency Management

Oklahoma is not unique in regards to our interoperable communications challenges. Most areas of the country have some type of challenge that requires the expertise of experienced communications practitioners. Almost every after-action review of a major disaster will have a section concerning communications challenges.

Recognizing this need, one of the first All-Hazards Incident Command System (ICS) position-specific training modules was for the Communications Unit Leader (COM-L). Designed to train qualified personnel to function under ICS as a COM-L during an event, the training reiterates that the planning process has to start immediately—prior to any event.

For many communities, having a qualified person attend the COM-L training may be sufficient for them to serve as a local COM-L. The training is valuable and will teach those with a radio communications background the basics of functioning as a COM-L. For those wishing to serve beyond their own agency borders, additional requirements will need to be met. The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) has now hosted two in-state COM-L classes, and the majority of the well-known communications practitioners in the state have attended one of these two classes. Even so, the majority of the attendees have

been from the metro areas.

Ideally, there would be at least two people per county to have attended COM-L training. This basic level of training would be enough for local agency representatives to assist with communications challenges in their jurisdiction. For those wishing to serve as a resource outside of their home jurisdiction, the process of determining the level of additional training, experience and qualifications has just begun.

OKOHS created the COM-L Committee as a working group under the guidance of the Training and Exercise Committee of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body. This committee will address the following issues by:

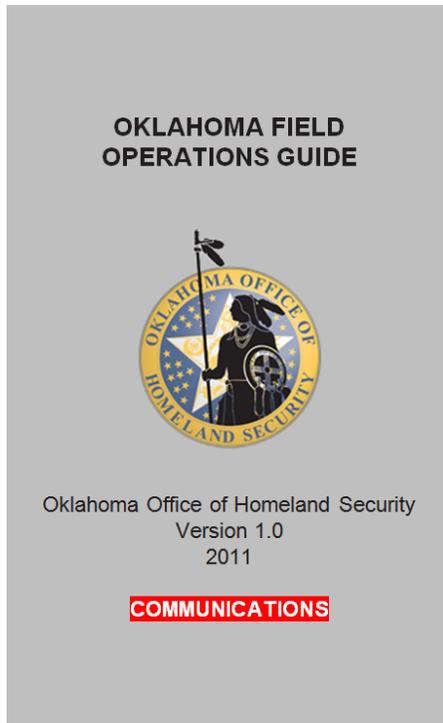
- Recommending future candidates for COM-L training,
- Determining additional training and qualifications necessary to serve as COM-L's at larger events,
- Recommending credentialing at the state (and perhaps regional) level,
- Creating a cadre of trainers capable of delivering COM-L training in-state,
- Assisting the Oklahoma Homeland Security Regions with interoperability guidelines and policies and
- Serving as a resource for agencies with questions about radio communications.

One of the key duties of the new committee will be to recommend a process for statewide credentialing. When agency personnel are sent to the three-day COM-L course, they are instructed in the process of completing a Position-specific Task Book (PTB). For those wishing to serve statewide as a COM-L, a PTB must be completed. The COM-L Committee is now determining the additional requirements beyond PTB completion.

A primary goal of the COM-L Committee is to assist OKOHS and the citizens of Oklahoma by developing a cadre of qualified COM-L personnel. After-Action Reports continue to reflect the need for communications expertise at the majority of incidents. The COM-L Committee is here to help with that process.

Note: John Comstock is the technical specialist for Oklahoma County Emergency Management and also serves as the Chair of the COM-L Committee.

Completed OKFOG to be distributed soon



The Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG) has been finalized and will be ready for distribution as soon as printing is complete. Development for the OKFOG was a year-long effort undertaken by OKOHS, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Committee of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body and L.R. Kimball, a consulting firm.

The OKFOG is pocket-sized operational guide for emergency responders. It includes frequency information specific to each county in the state. The OKFOG also includes mutual aid information for any responder to use statewide during a public safety event, regardless of what radio system is utilized.

Throughout 2010, meetings and conference calls were held biweekly between OKOHS, the SOP Committee and L.R. Kimball during the development of the OKFOG. Interviews were held with key stakeholders regarding information specific to each Oklahoma county.

Distribution will begin as soon as OKOHS receives the printed OKFOGs. Representatives from the Statewide Interoperable Communications Planning Division will distribute the guides at information sessions across the state, or public safety agencies can request copies through OKOHS. For additional information regarding the OKFOG, visit www.ioc.ok.gov.

How to check the status of your narrowband licenses

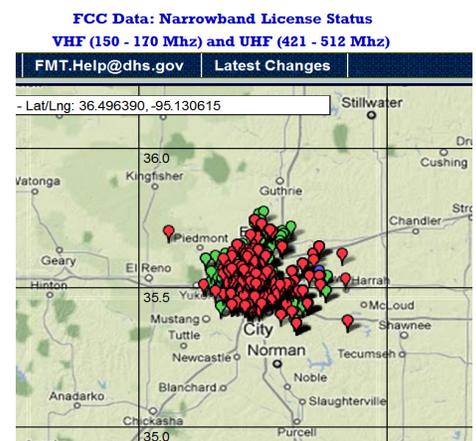
The Office of Emergency Communications, along with the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program, recently released a set of online tools enabling public safety officials to check the status of their Narrowband licenses or those of their neighboring agencies.

The tool allows public safety officials to run a report and save to an excel file, search for mobiles, search by frequency and search by call sign. It displays balloons that represent the various transmitters in a respective area of the state. Clicking on the balloons will display the

name and call sign of the transmitter and if it is operating in Narrowband, Wideband or both. It will also display the address, point of contact and license status. A green balloon indicates a narrowband transmitter, a blue balloon indicates that the transmitter is both narrowband and wideband and red balloon indicates a wideband transmitter.

The Federal Communications Commission provides the information, and the tool is updated frequently. For best results, search specific locations—there is too much data for broad searches. To view the online

tool, visit www.publicsafetytools.info and click on “Narrowband License Status Tool.”





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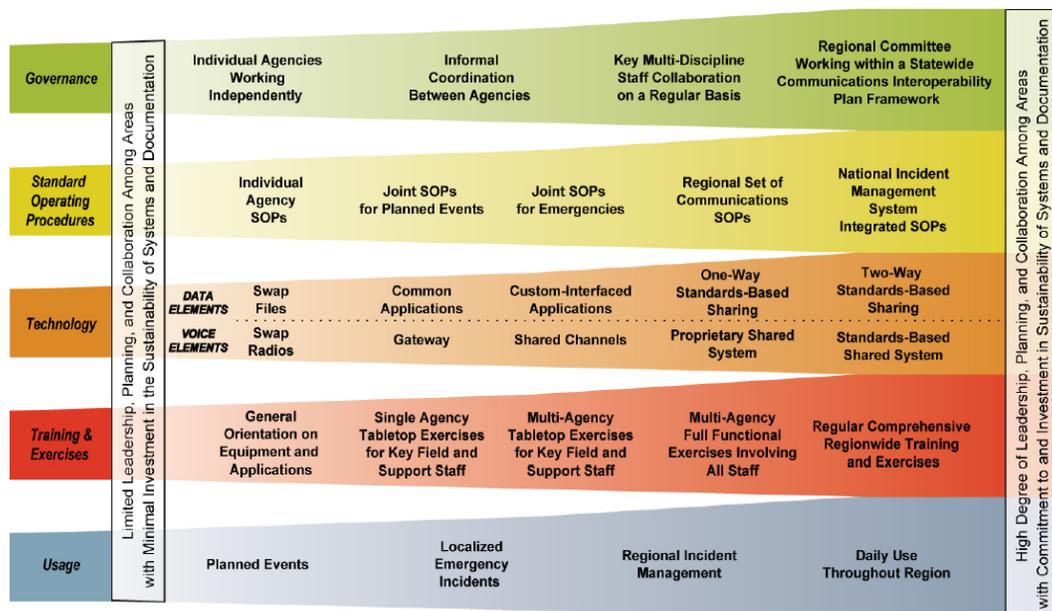
Announcements

OKWIN Website launched

In December 2010, the official Website for the Oklahoma Wireless Information Network (OKWIN) was launched. Basic information about the OKWIN System is available at this time, but as the Website is constructed throughout the coming months, Project 25 information, rebanding plans and a secure portal for system owners will be added. The Website will also offer online forms for new users. OKWIN System Owners are currently in the review process for these templates. The OKWIN Website is available at www.okwin.ok.gov.

2010 SCIP update complete

The 2010 update to the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is now complete. The major update includes the addition of strategic initiatives and descriptions of statewide projects. In the future, Oklahoma will use the strategic initiatives as a way to measure statewide progress. To view the 2010 SCIP, visit www.ioc.ok.gov.



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.