

Statewide Emergency Communications Board

Strategic Direction

Statewide goal: Provide reliable, interoperable communications for public safety responders, Minnesota citizens and visitors.

Vision: The safety of Minnesota's emergency responders, citizens and visitors is accomplished through state-of-the-art interoperable public safety communications systems.

Mission: Enable emergency responders and citizens to communicate easily and respond immediately in critical emergency situations by providing reliable and robust systems for interoperable communications across counties, state, federal and tribal regions.

Values: Fairness, Integrity, Consistency

Goal 1: Evaluate technology to provide optimal systems to secure paramount public safety solutions for Minnesota citizens, visitors and emergency responders.

ARMER

- Evaluate and implement software upgrades to ensure efficient system performance and avoid large upgrade costs at a later date
- Provide seamless interoperable communication to all 87 counties and 11 tribal nations
- Create matching equipment grant funding to support upgrades for end-of-lifecycle equipment and software upgrades

Next Generation 911

- Implement a statewide interoperable text-to-911 solution to meet FCC mandate by spring of 2016 and provide an alternate method for those who are deaf and hard of hearing as well as in situations might create a dangerous situation e.g. burglary in progress, domestic assault, child abduction
- Implement statewide geographical information systems (GIS) database to support location-based routing of current technology devices for 911 that will enable emergency responders to locate a wireless caller with more speed and accuracy

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

- Promote statewide deployment and adoption of IPAWS to facilitate communications to the public when the need arises. This alerting system has uses ranging from severe weather alerts to mass communications in situations requiring citizens to take protective action, such as an active shooter scenario, train derailment or nuclear power plant incident

Wireless Broadband for Public Safety

- Evaluate the requirements and features of a reliable dedicated public safety broadband which would guarantee access to data in high-demand situations when commercial carriers are not available.
- Continued consultation with FirstNet regarding the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)
- Advise the Governor about the risks and benefits of participating in the FirstNet NPSBN

Goal 2: Secure funding for state and local units of government to support the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective safety communications systems.

- Raise the 9-1-1 fee from \$.78 cents to \$.95 cents, as allowed by statute, to support SECB initiatives
- Encourage regional funding prioritization
- Create on-going grant programs to support regional priorities
- Pay off ARMER bonds early to prepare for future funding expenditures in later years
- Explore other possible funding mechanisms, such as other technologies that can initiate a 9-1-1 request for assistance but do not currently collect 9-1-1 fees

Goal 3: Educate decision-makers about the criticality of public safety communications systems and changes necessitated by consumers' changing technology behaviors. Train system users to ensure first-rate performance on new and infrequently used technologies

- Conduct annual training for elected officials at pertinent conferences and quarterly meetings
- Foster a core group of legislators to champion public safety communications initiatives
- Provide quarterly updates via newsletters and email distribution lists
- Update training materials on our online training website annually
- Provide grant funding opportunities to local units of government and public safety entities to promote on-going training and exercises