

Communications in Disaster Response

Compiled by Eileen Snyder, October 2011

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm

A major challenge facing first responders to disasters is communication inefficiency between the various agencies involved. One barrier to effective communication during the response has been the use of different communication technology between agencies, while inability to share information between law enforcement agencies has created a barrier to preventing or predicting disasters. The attacks of September 11, 2001, brought many of these issues to the fore, and efforts that were already underway to improve communications interoperability between agencies took on a new urgency. This bibliography presents resources that describe efforts to improve interoperability and communication between emergency responders since 2001.

Advancing Public Safety Interoperable Communications: Recent State Actions / National Governor's Association, Center for Best Practices. 2009. (338.15/N212c)
www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0906ADVANCING-PUBLICSAFETY.PDF

Communications Technology / National Institute of Justice. 2007. "Through its Communications Technology (CommTech) portfolio, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) assists law enforcement agencies to communicate across agency and jurisdictional boundaries."

www.nij.gov/topics/technology/communication/welcome.htm

"Emergency Response Often Uncoordinated in Post-9/11 Era" / Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, Wisconsin-watch.org, September 11, 2011. This article is part 3 of a 3-part series examining Wisconsin's emergency preparedness since September 11, 2001. Parts 1 and 2 of the series focus on funding of projects, while part 3 looks at coordination of emergency response. www.wisconsinwatch.org/2011/09/11/emergency-response-often-uncoordinated-in-post-911-era

Part 3 also includes a link to an interactive map, "What they learned in the disaster," showing agencies' after-action reports from training exercises and actual incidents.

www.wisconsinwatch.org/viz/what-they-learned-in-the-disaster-agencies-after-action-reports

Funding Justice Information Sharing / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2005. (346.92/N21d)

A Governor's Guide to Emergency Management / National Governor's Association, Center for Best Practices. 2001. Includes a chapter on interoperability and disaster communication.

- Vol. 1 *Natural Disasters* (338.15/N212a/pt.1)
- Vol. 2 *Homeland Security* (338.15/N212a/pt.2)

****Homefront: Wisconsin Homeland Security Newsletter / Governor's Homeland Security Council. 2008-2010. (Mil/EM/h)*** The six issues of this newsletter include many articles about state and local law enforcement, including funding for and implementation of interoperable communications. (Print copy for library use only) <http://cdmresolver.worldcat.org/oclc/693295999/viewonline>

"Improving Justice Technology Infrastructure" / National Conference of State Legislatures, State Legislative Report, September 2003, v. 28, no. 12. (346.92/N21c)

Information Sharing Systems: A Survey of Law Enforcement / The Justice Research and Statistics Association. July 31, 2006. www.jrsa.org/pubs/reports/improving-crime-data/Info_Sharing.pdf

Integrated Criminal Justice Information Systems / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2001. (346.92/N21a)

Interoperability Overview / National Institute of Justice. 2007. Web page includes links to fact sheets about different aspects of communications interoperability in law enforcement. www.nij.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication/interoperability.htm

****Justice Gateway Information System, Office of Justice Assistance: Letter Report / Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. 2010. (028.3/W7a5)*** The report includes a brief history of the Gateway Information System in addition to analyzing the system's expenditures and usage.

http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/10-gatewaysystems_ltr.pdf

"Let's Roll!" A Call for State Action to Provide Homeland Security: Interim Report of the Task Force on Protecting Democracy / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2002. (346.12/N21a) Includes a chapter on interoperability among response agencies.

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Minneapolis Responds: The I-35W Bridge Collapse / City of Minneapolis. November 19, 2010, 11 min., 14 sec. This video, posted on YouTube by the City of Minneapolis, describes the actions taken by first responders when the I-35W bridge collapsed on August 1, 2007. Through interviews with the responders and others, the video conveys the importance of interagency communications and training in allowing emergency workers to respond effectively. www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKAyj4I-oyc

“Redefining Radio Interoperability for Public Safety” / Wisconsin Counties. (352.9/W75/2010/v. 74/no. 3) “...[T]wo articles covering how the state and federal government are implementing true radio interoperability.”

- “National Emergency Communications Plan” / Jeffery Arnold, p.24-27.
- “Wisconsin Interoperability: Why Wisconsin Needs Interoperable Radio Communications” / David Spenner, p.28-31.

Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning: Report to the Legislature / Wisconsin Legislative Council. 2007. (LegisCI/2007-2009/r/no. 11) The Special Committee proposed the legislation that created the Interoperability Council. Further papers and reports from the committee are available on the Legislative Council Web site. <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2006/DPLAN/index.htm> (Print copy for library use only)

“State Approaches to Emergency Communications” / National Conference of State Legislatures, NCSL Legisbrief, February 2009. (328/N21h/pt. 6/2009-2011/v.17-19)

2007 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Without the TIC Plan / Wisconsin State Interoperability Executive Council. 2007. (338.15/W7L)

***Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing, Report to the Legislature / Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.** 2009 and 2010 editions available through the Wisconsin Digital Archives. <http://oja.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=21534&locid=97>

“Wisconsin State Patrol Tests New Path to Radio Interoperability” / National Institute of Justice, IN Short: Toward Criminal Justice Solutions, April 2010.

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/229517.pdf

Wisconsin Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report / Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative. November 2010.

www.interop.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=20932&locid=166

Related Web Sites

Project 25 Technology Interest Group: www.project25.org
“Project 25 (P25) is the standard for the design and manufacture of interoperable digital two-way wireless communications products.” Registration is required.

United States Department of Justice (Office of Justice Programs): <http://it.ojp.gov> Justice Information Sharing page. Includes news about efforts to promote information sharing in law enforcement.

United States Federal Communications Commission Encyclopedia: www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-response-interoperability-center-technical-advisory-committee Emergency Response Interoperability Center Technical Advisory Committee. Includes links to fact sheets and safety presentations.

United States Federal Communications Commission, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau: <http://publicsafety.fcc.gov/pshs/clearinghouse/index.htm?section=Interoperability%20Plans>
Provides links to interoperability plans from 14 different states, including Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov> Site includes resources about disaster preparedness and response.

Wisconsin Homeland Security: <http://hsc.wi.gov>
Find issues of *Homefront* newsletter, as well as annual reports and the final report of the Homeland Security Council.

Wisconsin Interoperability: www.interop.wi.gov/Index.asp
“Creating Seamless Statewide Public Safety Radio Communications.” Administered through the Office of Justice Assistance.

Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing (WIJIS) Program Office: www.wijisgateway.org

Wisconsin State Patrol: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/statepatrol/services/communications.htm

Communications: Data and Voice Networks.

*This title or portions of this Web site are also available through the WI Digital Archives at <http://cdm15011.contentdm.oclc.org>