

# What is WyoLink?

WyoLink is Wyoming's Statewide, Public Safety, Interoperable Radio Communications System.

# Background

- WyoLink is Wyoming's response to the federal 9/11 Commission recommendation of the need for interoperability between first responders.
- In addition to being the statewide interoperable emergency communications system for first responders, WyoLink's infrastructure provides the necessary communications for WYDOT's Intelligent Transportation
- Systems' (ITS) roadside devices including: connected vehicles, variable speed limit signs, dynamic messaging signs, webcams, remote weather stations and road reports from snow plow drivers.
- For additional information: <u>www.dot.state.wy.us/home/</u> administration/wyolink.html

### **Progress and Updates**

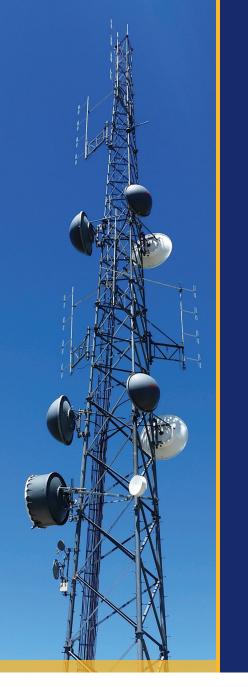
- Initiated outreach efforts to local communities, city councils and county commissions to better understand conditions and rebuild credibility.
- With a focus on efficient and effective service delivery for all WyoLink users across Wyoming, developed a WyoLink training presentation, a ticketing system, and a feedback form for service requests and to gauge performance.
- The allocation of \$35 million of ARPA funds began a long awaited upgrade plan, including: new base repeaters, additional channels to accommodate more users, hardened resiliencey and
- added redundancy, interoperable connections to adjacent states and systems including cellular interfaces, and \$4.5 million to be made available for local equipment purchases.
- While an additional \$53 million in funding had been requested, a portion of the \$35 million will be used to begin upgrading the current, but outdated microwave system (required for additional bandwidth as technologies and 911 requirements expand) as well as 2 additional towers.

#### **Funding**

- Since its inception in 2005, \$135 million has been invested to develop the WyoLink network and infrastructure.
- First responder agencies have invested additional millions to purchase WyoLink compatible mobile radios and dispatch center communications equipment.
- During the 2016 Budget Session, \$2.7 million (biennium) of MRG funds was allocated to pay for the local users portion (70% of total usage) of the maintenance and operation costs; those funds have been extended through the 2022 Budget Session.
- During the 2023 Legislative session, HB0046 Wyoming Public Safety Communications System Trust Fund, and SF0022 Wyoming Public Safety Communications System Funding, failed to provide a permanent funding source for WyoLink. An amendment was proposed to the supplemental budget, and \$8.6 million will now be provided in general funds, for operations and maintenance of the system for FY2024; then spread across the biennium thereafter.

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# WyoLink: Wyoming's Statewide Public Safety Communications System

WyoLink is Wyoming's Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications system. WyoLink provides communications for public safety & service agencies across Wyoming, within and outside of their home areas. The system is interoperable, meaning that agencies can directly communicate with each other in larger scale events and operations, whether they are nearby or even across the state.

## **Interoperable Multi-Agency Talkgroups (MATS)**

Regional use of MAT talkgroups as Mutual Aid. By using the primary regional MAT talkgroups (7 regions) Federal, State, and Local agencies have a resource for interoperable communications during planned, and unplanned incidents, and events, for all users. The WyoLink office has made provisions allowing these talkgroups to be available to all users.

#### **Stakeholders**

More than 500 Agencies and Departments and growing

- City Agencies
- EMS
- Federal Agencies
- Law Enforcement

- Local Fire
- Public Works
- Rural Fire
- School Districts
- State Agencies

More than 16,000 users and more than 12 million calls per year.

# **Currently 105 WyoLink Network Sites**

Nine sites are owned and maintained by local agencies, yet serve all WyoLink users

The Wyoming Department of Transportation maintains 96 sites.

#### Who maintains the infrastructure?

The WyoLink Support Office with the assistance of WYDOT Emergency Communications is responsible for maintaining the system infrastructure.

WyoLink includes a 24/7, 365-day monitoring system of all WyoLink infrastructure and systems. The WyoLink Support Center is available 24/7 by calling 307-777-9565.

#### **WyoLink Local Towers and Locations Site Map**

