

Public Safety Communications Commission



Inside this Issue:

- Importance of Inter-Operability pg 1
- Jim Narva Interview pg 2
- Calendar of Events pg 3
- Agency Information Request pg 3
- Mobile Radio Coverage pg 4
- WyoLink Status pg 4



We would like to thank you for your interest in Wyoming's PSCC. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have to this publication. You may direct them to Bob Symons at 307.777.5065 or by email at bsymon@state.wy.us

The Importance of Inter-Operability

The main reason for the formation of WyoLink, the statewide communication system, is to create compatibility so public safety agencies within the state of Wyoming are able to communicate with one another.

There is a need for coordinated emergency response in Wyoming. Currently, public safety agencies in Wyoming cannot communicate with one another. This becomes a problem when different agencies are responding to the same area, causing congestion of the system and lack of effective communication. To be effective, first responders require the ability to communicate in real-time, with agencies inside and outside of their own, at state, local, and federal levels. The inter-operability provided by WyoLink will help public safety agencies while responding to critical incidents that will save lives.

There are different levels of Inter-operability needed to maintain the success of our public safety agencies: Day-to-day, Mutual-aid, and Task force inter-operability.

- Day-to-day involves coordination during routine public safety operations such as fire fighters working together from different departments. This is the most common type of inter-operability used on a local level.
- Mutual-aid involves a joint effort stemming from a catastrophic event or natural disaster such as a flood or plane crash.
- Task force involves agencies at the state, local, and federal levels working together for an extended period of time such as agencies working together on a recovery operation.

The different levels of inter-operability also promote the formation of new relationships among agencies. These relationships can lead to sharing resources, reducing duplicate efforts, and leading to more efficient use of the system; all in the name of public safety.

The goal of WyoLink is also based on the different levels of inter-operability in that: emergency service providers will be able to communicate with each other as needed on a daily basis and during major events.



<http://pscc.wyoming.gov>

Views From the Chairman

The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) has a new Chairman as of June 14, 2005. State Fire Marshal Jim Narva, previously Vice-Chairman of the PSCC, was voted to the Chair position by the 17 member Commission. Narva will spend the next year leading the PSCC forward as the WyoLink project progresses. Narva shared some of his views on the future of WyoLink and the PSCC.

The formation of the PSCC and WyoLink are important because they allow for inter-operability. "If first responders can't communicate effectively with one another they will put themselves at risk, or worse yet tragically become part of the problem. I can't stress enough the safety aspect," Narva said. Inter-operability will allow for greater efficiency when responding to any type of emergency, while enhancing the safety of the citizens and first responders of Wyoming.

When asked how he would define success of the Commission and its digital, trunked radio communication system, WyoLink Narva said, "The entire state of Wyoming will need to work together for WyoLink to be successful." Narva is optimistic this will occur, but says it will be a challenge considering the large number of agencies involved and their local needs and operational intricacies. "When we have first responders working together across jurisdictional boundaries with no interoperable communication problems we will have ultimately achieved success with WyoLink."

Narva believes the greatest challenge facing the Commission today is securing funding for continued development of the WyoLink project. "This project benefits a large number of agencies throughout the state and these agencies need to agree on what's best locally and state-wide. We need to work cooperatively to secure funding to meet the communication needs of all participants," Narva said.

Narva also looks forward to the day the end user will be able to see first-hand the benefits of WyoLink. "I want the users to identify their needs and be able to have those needs met through WyoLink. The Commission has come a long way this past year, and it will be exciting for all involved as the new equipment is rolled out and the capabilities of WyoLink are made available to those using the system."

"Wyoming has been proactive since the activities of September 11, 2001. There are many individuals, in the state, with the vision of inter-operability who built an excellent foundation," said Narva. "This project presents the state with a tremendous opportunity to improve public safety in every region of the state; how we handle this opportunity is vital. If at the end of the day we can say we are all safer and our ability to mitigate emergencies has improved then we will have accomplished much." The formation of the PSCC and WyoLink are key additions to increasing public safety in Wyoming.



Upcoming Events

Calendar posted @ <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>

10/24/05 * 11/28/05 * 1/04/06 Project Team Meetings 1 pm—3 pm@
Qwest Building, Room 350

This is a monthly meeting held by the WyoLink Project Manager and Motorola. The meeting gives an overview of the progress over the past month, what is taking place in the near future, and any problems or concerns that need to be addressed with WyoLink.

12/13/05 - PSCC Meeting—Cheyenne— Check Calendar for location

This is the quarterly general business meeting of the PSCC. Each committee gives a standing report; any concerns or problems are discussed and action taken, if needed. A progress report on the WyoLink project is also presented.

Agency Information Request

The WyoLink project is rapidly moving from vision to reality. In the coming months the Pilot Phase will be on the air and available for demonstration use and operational exercises. A decision point is scheduled for January 2006 to verify that WyoLink technology, the necessary operational planning and the user training resources are ready to “go live.”

To facilitate necessary planning, the WyoLink Project Team and the Wyoming Public Safety communications Commission (PSCC) are requesting information regarding the number of agencies that intend to participate and the projected number of radios that will be using the WyoLink system.

There are two (2) forms that are posted on the WyoLink web site (<http://wyolink.wy.gov>) under the heading “[How to Join WyoLink](#)”. The first form is the “[Notice of Intent to Participate](#)”, which lists the agency name and provides agency contact information.. The second form, “[WyoLink Agency Profile](#)”, provides detailed information on the agency, radio equipment, dispatch services, technical support and user training.

Where a government body consists of multiple agencies, such as a city having a police department and fire department, please submit separate forms for each agency.

The information submitted in response to this request will be considered preliminary and non-binding. The PSCC is currently drafting rules and procedures for participation in the WyoLink system and a formal agreement for participation will be developed following the adoption of the rules and procedures.

Further information may be provided by contacting either Tom Mahon, WyoLink Project Manager at 307-777-3922 or tom.mahon@dot.state.wy.us or Bob Symons at 307-777-5065 or bsymon@state.wy.us

PSCC Members

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State Fire Marshal

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Game and Fish

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Mobile Radio Coverage

The WyoLink radio system is being designed to provide interoperable communications for public safety agencies across Wyoming. Wyoming's Public Safety Mobile Communications (PSMC) Plan was developed by a steering committee representing a broad range of public safety agencies. The plan represents a carefully crafted balance between system requirements based on user needs and system cost.

In considering the coverage provided to a given group of users, composite coverage of all radio sites in and around the operational area must be considered rather than the number of radio sites in the operational area owned by the user agency. A WyoLink project goal has been to improve statewide coverage for public safety users within the State. If improvement is not economically feasible, the project is committed to providing coverage equal to the existing coverage.

In balancing system requirements and system cost the Steering Committee referenced the 95% coverage target on the performance of mobile radios. The WyoLink radio system will provide coverage for portable radios as a function of reaching the mobile radio target. Portable radio coverage will not be as extensive as mobile radio coverage but should typically be better than current portable radio coverage in most cases. As the WyoLink system is constructed the coverage provided for portable radios will be evaluated and compared against existing portable radio coverage. Testing of a given area will be conducted and evaluated upon optimization of all WyoLink sites that could impact coverage for that area.

WyoLink Status

Work continues on the completion of the pilot phase of WyoLink. On June 20 – 24, 2005, Motorola successfully completed the factory staging and testing of the WyoLink equipment. This testing was witnessed by Tom Mahon (Project Manager), Ken Montgomery (WyoLink Technical Lead) and Dan Perko (Wyoming APCO Chairman). After testing, the equipment was disassembled and delivered to Cheyenne the following week. The equipment has been installed and is waiting upon the completion of an electrical upgrade to the master site. Four radio sites have been completed and Sherman Hill is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. Work has started on the design of Phase 2 sites, progressing past Rawlins to the west and Casper to the north. Changes have been made to the frequency acquisition plan which will help in identifying appropriate frequencies.

PSCC Newsletter

The goal of the PSSC Newsletter is to disseminate information to all agencies and individuals interested in the PSSC. To reduce printing and postage costs all issues will be in electronic format. If you would like to continue receiving the PSSC newsletter please visit <http://pscc.wyoming.gov> and click on E-mail/Newsletter sign up. This will be a quarterly, electronic publication distributed after every Commission meeting.

PSSC Mission:

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperability with emphasis on public safety.