



Wyoming

Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

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Executive Summary

The Wyoming Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is a stakeholder-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide strategic plan to enhance interoperable and emergency communications. The SCIP is a critical mid-range (three to five years) strategic planning tool to help Wyoming prioritize resources, strengthen governance, identify future investments, and address interoperability gaps.

The purpose of the Wyoming SCIP:

- Provide a strategic direction and alignment for those responsible and emergency communications at the State, Regional, Local and Tribal Levels
- Explain to leadership and elected officials the vision for interoperable and emergency communications and demonstrate the need for funding.
- The Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission has the responsibility for the development, implementation and updating the SCIP.

The following are Wyoming's Vision and Mission for improving emergency communications operability, interoperability, and continuity of communications statewide.

Vision Statement:

We seek statewide interoperability for the State of Wyoming. We intend for the WyoLink system to provide communications interoperability whenever the need arises with whomever we need to talk, including our home base and other mobile units and dispatches. We desire that our system will include all public safety and first responder agencies wishing to participate including police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) at the local, state, and federal levels. We also recognize the need to prioritize the inclusion of players from other sectors; including transportation, airports, railroads, utilities and refineries as resources and system capacity permit.

Mission Statement:

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

Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals represent the priorities for delivering Wyoming's vision for interoperable and emergency communications

- SOPs
 - Review and revise interoperability program to include interoperable talkgroups, conventional national interoperable channels, vehicular repeaters, and federal interoperable channels
- Technology
 - Improve WyoLink coverage in rural areas identified through users experience, mobile coverage testing and benefit to WyoLink

- Improve WyoLink portable radio coverage in urban areas identified through users experience and coverage testing
- Replace obsolete Quantar base radios with GTR8000 base radios
- Convert the leased T1 circuits to a Broadband Unified Network, reducing the monthly leased charges
- Training and Exercises
 - Review and upgrade WyoLink and Interoperable Communication Training program
- Usage
 - Mobile and portable radio purchases shall meet the P-25 Standards, including the trunking option
 - Review and revise Wyoming Interoperability Guide
- Outreach and Information Sharing
 - There is no specified goal for this section
- Life Cycle Funding
 - Create a standard budget for WyoLink System ongoing costs

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1. Introduction

The Wyoming Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is a stakeholder-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide strategic plan to enhance interoperable and emergency communications. The SCIP is a critical mid-range (three to five years) strategic planning tool to help Wyoming prioritize resources, strengthen governance, identify future investments, and address interoperability gaps. This document contains the following planning components:

- **Introduction** - Provides the context necessary to understand what the SCIP is and how it was developed.
- **Purpose** - Explains the purpose/function(s) of the SCIP in Wyoming
- **State's Interoperable and Emergency Communications Overview** - Provides an overview of the State's current and future emergency communications environment and defines ownership of the SCIP.
- **Vision and Mission** - Articulates the State's three- to five-year vision and mission for improving emergency communications operability, interoperability, and continuity of communications at all levels of government.
- **Strategic Goals and Initiatives** - Outlines the strategic goals and initiatives aligned with the three- to five-year vision and mission of the SCIP and pertains to the following critical components: Governance, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Technology, Training and Exercises, Usage, Outreach and Information Sharing, and Life Cycle Funding.
- **Reference Documents** - Includes resources that provide additional background information on the SCIP or interoperable and emergency communications in Wyoming or directly support the SCIP.

Figure 1 provides additional information about how these components of the SCIP interrelate to develop a comprehensive plan for improving interoperable and emergency communications.

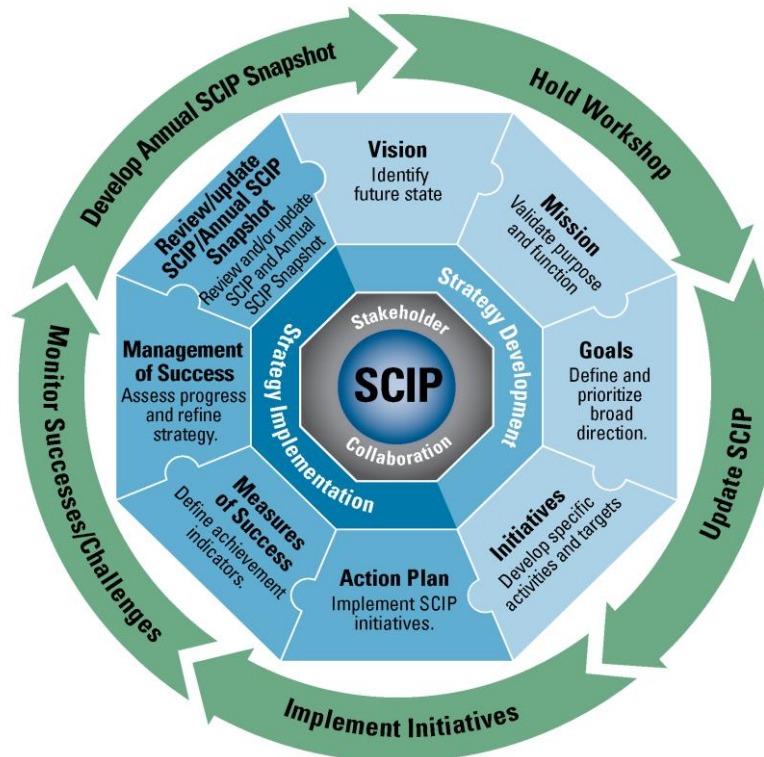


Figure 1: Statewide Life Cycle Planning Process

- Wyoming has created and operating a Project 25 VHF digital trunked radio system called WyoLink. WyoLink consists of seventy five (75) sites providing approximately 95% mobile radio coverage statewide with the exception of Yellowstone National Park. Of the 75 sites, thirteen (13) site are providing local portable radio coverage and seven (7) sites are 800 MHz providing coverage in three (3) counties; Campbell County/Gillette, Natrona County/Casper and Laramie County/Cheyenne.
- The Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission has adopted the Wyoming Interoperability Guide which identifies the interoperable trunking talkgroups and conventional VHF, UHF and 800 MHz interoperable channels. There are four (4) interoperable talkgroups identified for each of the twenty three (23) counties and four (4) interoperable talkgroups for each of the seven (7) regional response regions and four (4) statewide talkgroups. The Wyoming Mutual Aid radio system consists of twenty six (26) conventional VHF sites. The National VHF, UHF and 800 MHz interoperable conventional channels are identified in the Wyoming Interoperability Guide.
- Wyoming has published the Wyoming Communications Field Operations Guide (WY-CFOG), which follows the Wyoming Interoperability Guide.

However, more remains to be done to achieve Wyoming's vision. It is also important to note that this work is part of a continuous cycle as Wyoming will always need to adapt to evolving technologies, operational tactics, and changes to key individuals (e.g. Governor, project champions). In the next three to five years, Wyoming will encounter challenges relating to operability, interoperability, geography, aging equipment/systems, emerging technologies, changing project champions, and sustainable funding. Wireless voice and data technology is evolving rapidly and efforts are underway to determine how to leverage these new technologies to meet the needs of public safety. For example, the enactment of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act),

specifically Title VI, related to Public Safety Communications, authorizes the deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The NPSBN is intended to be a wireless, interoperable nationwide communications network that will allow members of the public safety community to securely and reliably gain and share information with their counterparts in other locations and agencies. New policies and initiatives such as the NPSBN present additional changes and considerations for future planning efforts and require an informed strategic vision to properly account for these changes. Figure 2 illustrates a public safety communications evolution by describing the long-term transition toward a desired converged future.

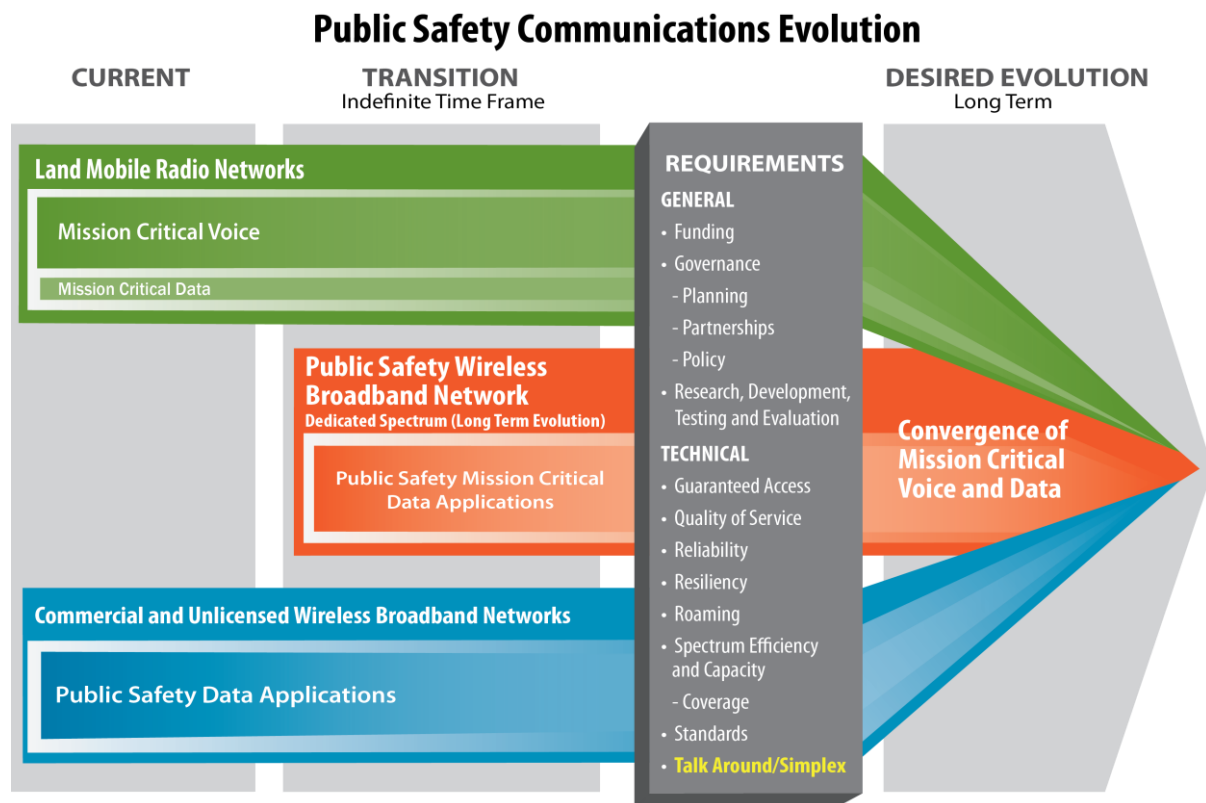


Figure 2: Public Safety Communications Evolution

Integrating capabilities such as broadband provide an unparalleled opportunity for the future of interoperable communications in Wyoming. It may result in a secure path for information-sharing initiatives, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), and Next Generation 911 (NG911) integration. Broadband will not replace existing Land Mobile Radio (LMR) voice systems in the foreseeable future due to implementation factors associated with planning, deployment, technology, and cost. A cautious approach to this investment is needed. Therefore, robust requirements and innovative business practices must be developed for broadband initiatives prior to any implementation.

There is no defined timeline for the deployment of the NPSBN; however, Wyoming will keep up-to-date with the planning and build-out of the NPSBN in the near and long term in coordination with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet is the independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and is responsible for developing the NPSBN, which will be a single, nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. The network build-out will require continuing education and commitment at all levels of government and across public safety disciplines to document network requirements and identify existing resources and assets that could potentially be used in the build-out of the network. It will also be necessary to

develop and maintain strategic partnerships with a variety of stakeholder agencies and organizations at the national, State, regional, local, and tribal levels and design effective policy and governance structures that address new and emerging interoperable and emergency communications technologies. During this process, investments in LMR will continue to be necessary and in the near term, wireless data systems or commercial broadband will complement LMR. More information on the role of these two technologies in interoperable and emergency communications is available in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Public Safety Communications Evolution brochure.

WyoLink core system is approaching completion, and recurring costs are better understood, funding will be needed, to support WyoLink: Wyoming's statewide public safety interoperable radio communications system. This funding will be for recurring support, console connectivity, System updates and life cycle planning. As WyoLink continues to attract users, there will be additional areas identified which may require additional WyoLink radio sites, which will need to be included in future budgets.

The Interoperability Continuum, developed by SAFECOM and shown in Figure 3, serves as a framework to address all of these challenges and continue improving operable/interoperable and emergency communications. It is designed to assist emergency response agencies and policy makers with planning and implementing interoperability solutions for voice and data communications.

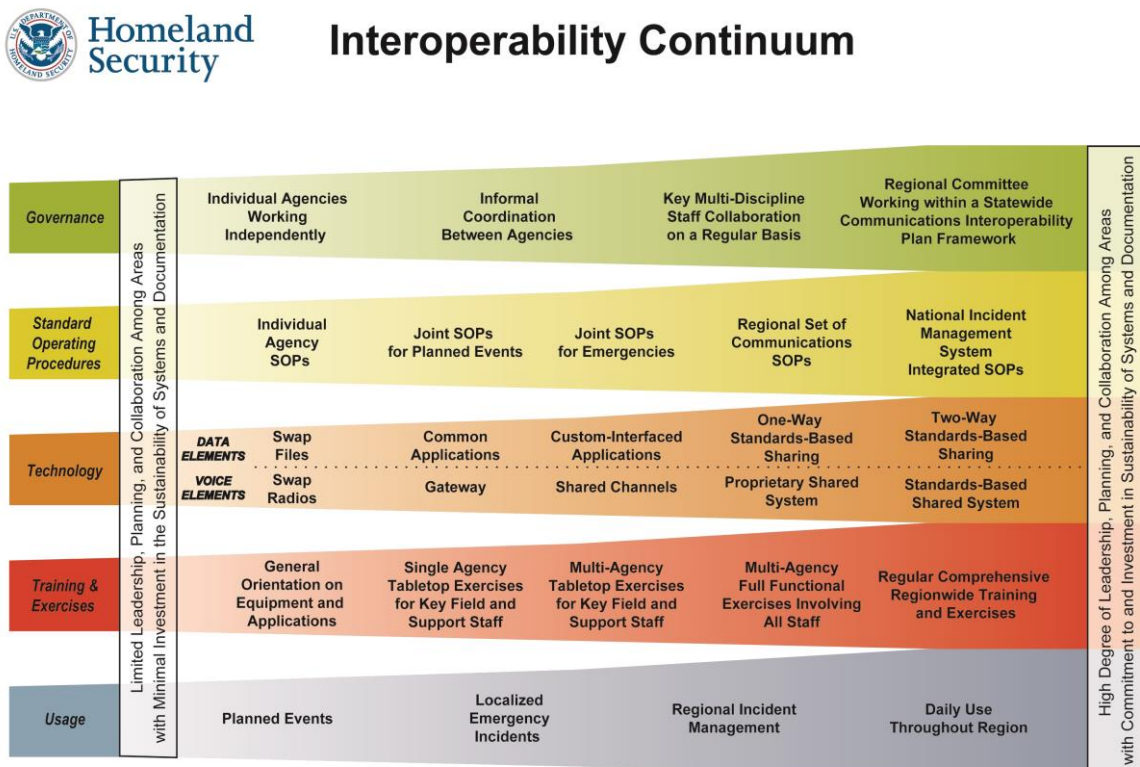


Figure 3: The Interoperability Continuum

The Continuum identifies five critical success elements that must be addressed to achieve a successful interoperable communications solution:

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- Governance - Collaborative decision-making process that supports interoperability efforts to improve communication, coordination, and cooperation across disciplines and jurisdictions. Governance is the critical foundation of all of Wyoming efforts to address communications interoperability.
 - SOPs - Policies, repetitive practices, and procedures that guide emergency responder interactions and the use of interoperable communications solutions.
 - Technology - Systems and equipment that enable emergency responders to share voice and data information efficiently, reliably, and securely.
 - Training and Exercises - Scenario-based practices used to enhance communications interoperability and familiarize the public safety community with equipment and procedures.
 - Usage - Familiarity with interoperable communications technologies, systems, and operating procedures used by first responders to enhance interoperability.

More information on the Interoperability Continuum is available in OEC's Interoperability Continuum brochure. The following sections will further describe how the SCIP will be used in Wyoming and Wyoming's plans to enhance interoperable and emergency communications.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Wyoming SCIP:

- Provide a strategic direction and alignment for those responsible and emergency communications at the State, Regional, Local and Tribal Levels
- Explain to leadership and elected officials the vision for interoperable and emergency communications and demonstrate the need for funding.
- The Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission has the responsibility for the development, implementation and updating the SCIP.
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The development and execution of the SCIP assists Wyoming with addressing the results of the NECP Goals and the Federal government with fulfilling the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) National Preparedness Goal for Operational Communications.

The Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) has the responsibility of reviewing and updating the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The SCIP will be used to guide the PSCC on the operation and upgrade of the WyoLink system and interoperable communication planning in Wyoming.

3. State's Interoperable and Emergency Communications Overview

The Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) was created in 2004 by the Wyoming Legislature. The PSCC consists of seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor to

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three-year terms representing State of Wyoming agencies, public safety organizations, Federal agencies, tribal and the general public. The PSCC meets at least quarterly at various locations around the State. 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 wireless communications interoperability with emphasis on public safety. The PSCC has organized itself through the election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Four working groups have been developed to further the work of the Commission on fulfilling its functions: Administration and Funding Work Group, WyoLink Operations Work Group, Interoperability Executive Committee and Spectrum Work Group. Each of the work groups are represented by PSCC Commissioners and subject matter experts. The working groups meet as needed throughout the year. The Administration and Funding Working Group is responsible for the PSCC budget development, grants, rates and fees, and staff recruitment and evaluation. The mission of the WyoLink Operations Workgroup is to provide policy level oversight to the development, implementation and ongoing operation of the WyoLink state-wide public safety communication system. This workgroup is involved in the decision making for the location of expansion radio sites, WyoLink end user training, and working with the local agencies on enhanced portable radio coverage. The Spectrum Working Groups roles and responsibilities includes the frequency policy and planning, frequency coordination and interference mitigation and FCC licensing and compliance. This work group is also responsible for the 700 MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees responsibilities. To provide a professional communication system with compatibility and availability of common communication paths for all public safety users is the mission of the Inter-Operability Executive Committee. This committee has completed and forwarded to the PSCC the WyoLink Handbook, WyoLink Membership Agreement, WyoLink Membership Application and Wyoming Interoperability Guide.

- WyoLink System Coverage - Upon the completion of the core WyoLink sites and the portable coverage sites, coverage testing and user experience may indicate additional areas requiring coverage. WyoLink is utilizing test equipment to determine the radio signal coverage currently being provided and to identify areas with poor or no WyoLink coverage. The PSCC has revised the WyoLink and interoperable communications training program with emphasis on the end-user radios, interoperable communications, and radio discipline and etiquette. The training is a Train-the-Trainer program and being delivered in each regional response area of Wyoming. The Train-the-Trainer program will also assist in refresher training at the user level. One of the concerns listed by WyoLink users is the funding of WyoLink and providing the WyoLink Operations and Maintenance as a standard budget item would provide a means for continued operations. The PSCC is currently completing a four year Life Cycle Plan for WyoLink. the Life Cycle Plan will be presented to the Wyoming Legislature for future funding requests. In the future, additional funding may be required to improve WyoLink coverage, in those areas identified by the coverage testing, and for additional resources at the WyoLink site experiencing heavy use and excessive busy rates.

4. Vision Statement and Mission Statement

The Vision and Mission section describes the Wyoming's vision and mission for improving emergency communications operability, interoperability, and continuity of communications statewide.

Wyoming Interoperable and Emergency Communications Vision:

We seek statewide interoperability for the State of Wyoming. We intend for the WyoLink system to provide communications interoperability whenever the need arises with whomever we need to talk, including our home base and other mobile units and dispatches. We desire that our system will include all public safety and first responder agencies wishing to participate including police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) at the local, state, and federal levels. We also recognize the need to prioritize the inclusion of players from other sectors; including transportation, airports, railroads, utilities and refineries as resources and system capacity permit.

Wyoming Interoperable and Emergency Communications Mission:

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

5. Strategic Goals and Initiatives

The Strategic Goals and Initiatives section describes the statewide goals and initiatives for delivering the vision for interoperable and emergency communications. The goals and initiatives are grouped into seven sections, including Governance, SOPs, Technology, Training and Exercises, Usage, Outreach and Information Sharing, and Life Cycle Funding. three- to five-year vision for interoperable and emergency communications.

5.1 Governance

The Governance section of the SCIP outlines the future direction of the Wyoming's governance structure for interoperable and emergency communications.

5.2 Standard Operating Procedures

Review and revise interoperability program to include interoperable talkgroups, conventional national interoperable channels, vehicular repeaters and federal interoperable channels.

Table 2: SOP Goals and Initiatives

Standard Operating Procedures Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period
2.1	Review and revise interoperability program to include interoperable talkgroups, conventional national interoperable channels, vehicular repeaters, and federal interoperable channels				

5.3 Technology

The Technology Section of the SCIP outlines Wyoming's plan to maintain and upgrade existing technology; the roadmap to identify, develop, and implement new and emerging technology solutions; and the approach to survey and disseminate information on current and future technology solutions to ensure user needs are met.

Table 3: Technology Goals and Initiatives

Technology Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period
3.1	Improve WyoLink coverage in rural areas identified through users experience, mobile coverage testing and benefit to WyoLink	3.1.1 Add WyoLink sites in the Alcova Area - Natrona County, north western Sublette County - Bondurant area, and Northern Goshen County	PSCC, Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Legislature	06/2018	N/A
		3.1.2 Add WyoLink sites in the southern portion of the Big Horn Mountains - Ten Sleep area, Northern Big Horn County , and Orin Junction - Converse County	PSCC, Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Legislature	06/2020	N/A

3.2	Improve WyoLink portable radio coverage in urban areas identified through users experience and coverage testing	3.2.1	Add WyoLink Portable Coverage enhancement sites in community areas with a minimum population base of 3,500 persons: Rock Springs, Evanston, Jackson, Buffalo and Newcastle	PSCC, Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Legislature	06/2018	N/A
		3.2.2	Add WyoLink Portable Coverage Enhancement sites in community areas with a minimum population base of 1,200 persons : Sundance, Greybull, Lusk and Wright	PSCC, Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Legislature	06/2020	N/A
3.3	Replace obsolete Quantar base radios with GTR8000 base radios	3.3.1	Replace the 346 Quantar base radios before the WyoLink system upgrades to Operating Version 7.18	WyoLink Support Office, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Legislature	09/2018	N/A
3.4	Convert the leased T1 circuits to a Broadband Unified Network, reducing the monthly leased charges	3.4.1	Convert leased T1 circuits to Unified Network	WyoLink Support Office and Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services	07/2018	N/A

5.4 Training and Exercises

The Training and Exercises section of the SCIP explains Wyoming's approach to ensure that emergency responders are familiar with interoperable and emergency communications equipment and procedures and are better prepared for responding to real-world events.

Table 4: Training and Exercises Goals and Initiatives

Training and Exercises Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period
4.1	Review and upgrade WyoLink and	4.1.1 Review and upgrade WyoLink Handbook	PSCC	07/2016	Biannually thereafter

Interoperable Communication Training program	4.1.2	Review and Revise training program to include videos	PSCC	07/2017	Biannually thereafter
	4.1.3	Explore a help desk availability during business hours	PSCC and WyoLink Support Office	07/2017	N/A
	4.1.4	Continue the Train-the-Trainer training and seek out users wanting training on a regular basis	PSCC and Wyoming Office of Homeland Security	07/2017	Semiannually thereafter

5.5 Usage

The Usage section of the SCIP outlines the efforts to ensure responders adopt and familiarize themselves with interoperable and emergency communications technologies, systems, and operating procedures in the State. Regular usage ensures the maintenance and establishment of interoperability in case of an incident.

Table 5: Usage Goals and Initiatives

Usage Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period
5.1	Mobile and portable radio purchases shall meet the P-25 Standards, including the trunking option	5.1.1 Mobile and portable radio purchases shall meet the P-25 Standards, including the trunking option and the radios shall be approved by the WyoLink Support Office for use on WyoLink	WyoLink Support Office, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and all WyoLink users	07/2017	Annually thereafter
5.2	Review and revise Wyoming Interoperability Guide	5.2.1 Review and revise interoperability guide to include interoperable talkgroups, conventional national interoperable channels and federal interoperable channels	PSCC	07/2017	Annually thereafter

5.6 Outreach and Information Sharing

The Outreach and Information Sharing section of the SCIP outlines Wyoming's approach for building a coalition of individuals and emergency response organizations statewide to support the SCIP vision and for promoting common emergency communications initiatives.

Table 6: Outreach and Information Sharing Goals and Initiatives

Outreach and Information Sharing Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period

5.7 Life Cycle Funding

The Life Cycle Funding section of the SCIP outlines Wyoming's plan to fund existing and future interoperable and emergency communications priorities.

Table 7: Life Cycle Funding Goals and Initiatives

Life Cycle Funding Goals and Initiatives					
Goal #	Goals	Initiatives	Owner	Completion Date	Completion Period
7.1	Create a standard budget for WyoLink System ongoing costs	7.1.1			N/A

6. Implementation

The purpose of this section is to clearly define measurable tactics and processes to achieve the identified strategic goals and initiatives.

6.1 Action Plan

The Action Plan section of the SCIP describes the process Wyoming will use to determine a plan to execute the initiatives in the SCIP.

6.2 Measures of Success

The Measures of Success section of the SCIP defines the measures that Wyoming will use to monitor progress and indicate accomplishments toward achieving the vision for interoperable and emergency

communications. Table 8 outlines these measures for Wyoming. More information on how these measures are managed is included in section 6.3.

Table 8: SCIP Measures of Success

Goal #	Strategic Goal(s) Supported	Initial State	Target Measurement	Measure Completion Date	Owner or Resource
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6.3 Management of Success

6.4 Strategic Plan Review

The Strategic Plan Review section outlines the process Wyoming will use to conduct reviews of the SCIP to ensure it is up to date and aligned with the changing internal and external interoperable and emergency communications environment as well as to track and report progress against the defined initiatives and measures of success.

7. Reference Materials

The Reference Materials section outlines resources that contribute additional background information on the SCIP and interoperable and emergency communications in Delaware. Table 9 includes the links to these reference materials.

Table 9: SCIP Reference Materials

Title	Description	Source Location
Wyoming Interoperability Guide		Wyoming Interoperability Guide 6-15.pdf

Appendix A - Major Systems

List all existing major interoperable and emergency communications systems in the table below. As the State updates the SCIP, note if and how major systems have been updated or if new systems have been developed

System Type	System Name	System Owner	System Description	# Subscribers and Agencies	User's Level of Government	Status and Changes Update
Regional System	WyoLink	State of Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VHF (High Band 150-170MHz) P25 Compliant Motorola Digital Trunked Encrypted Voice and Data 75 	14000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State 	Existing System
State Agency(ies) System	Wyoming Mutual Aid	State of Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VHF (High Band 150-170MHz) Non-P25 Motorola 	7000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State 	Existing System

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analog• Conventional• Not Encrypted• Voice• 26			
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Appendix B - Acronym List

ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
BDA	Bi-Directional Amplification
COML	Communications Unit Leader
COMT	Communications Unit Technician
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FirstNet	First Responder Network Authority
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
MHz	Megahertz
LMR	Land Mobile Radio
LTE	Long-Term Evolution
NECP	National Emergency Communications Plan
NG911	Next Generation 911
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMIS	National Incident Management System
NPSPAC	National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee
NPSBN	Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
OEC	Office of Emergency Communications
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
P25	Project 25
PPD	Presidential Policy Directive
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
RECCWG	Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group
RIC	Regional Interoperability Council

RPC	Regional Planning Committee
SCIP	Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan
SIEC	Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SWIC	Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
TICP	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
TA	Technical Assistance