

Technical and Interoperable Planning Service Offerings

CISA offers communications support and planning services to improve public safety and emergency management communications in the areas of:

- ▶ Technical assistance offerings
- ▶ Governance planning, assessment, development, and agreements
- ▶ Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) development, assessment, and implementation
- ▶ Technology planning, training, and implementation support
- ▶ Training and exercise planning and execution support

The only cost for the support and services offered by CISA is the time it takes to coordinate and implement the technical assistance.

Recent Tribal Technical Assistance Offerings

- ▶ Emergency communications planning
- ▶ Radio programming training
- ▶ Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) guidance
- ▶ Gap analysis and technical assessment
- ▶ Special event planning/training
- ▶ Radio Frequency (RF) coverage analysis
- ▶ Communications Unit (COMU) and Communications Leader (COML) Training
- ▶ Assistance with establishing tribal dispatch capabilities

Key Takeaways

The tribal governance profile process can serve as a roadmap to:

- ▶ Provide an understanding of a Tribe's emergency communications capabilities, activities, and challenges
- ▶ Identify opportunities to support and enhance operable/interoperable tribal emergency communications through technical assistance, services, and grants
- ▶ Support the development/ refinement of a formal communications governance structure
- ▶ Help holistically identify and document lessons learned and best practices to help inform and strengthen communications for all tribal communities
- ▶ Enable CISA to coordinate with Tribes to develop and enhance communication infrastructure through the implementation of emerging technologies

Contact Information

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Tribal Emergency Communications Governance Support

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)



CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

Why Tribes Are so Important

Within the United States there are currently 573 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages representing 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their tribal lands cover more than 55 million surface acres crossing countless states, counties, and jurisdictions, and even international borders. Each Tribe is a critical part of the public safety community's nationwide infrastructure and governance process.¹

CISA Tribal Mission

Each Tribal Nation has unique cultures, capabilities, needs, and challenges. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is working individually with federally-recognized Tribes to establish collaborative relationships to foster a cultural and technical understanding of each Tribe's community and emergency communications framework. CISA must understand how their customs, capabilities, challenges, and current governance structures impact decision-making, management, and resource allocation so CISA can identify and tailor solutions.

Governance Support

In 2014, CISA released the *National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)* to enhance emergency communications decision-making, coordination, and planning through governance structures. In 2018, CISA released the latest *Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Officials* which provides recommendations and best practices for public safety officials to establish, assess, and enhance communications and governance infrastructure. Utilizing these tools, CISA has undertaken a key initiative to document current tribal emergency communications operations, resources, and operable/interoperable challenges, as well as identify opportunities to assess and improve tribal communications capabilities. CISA documents each participating Tribe's information in a profile to help support the unique emergency communications needs of Tribes.

¹November 21, 2018: <https://www.bia.gov/about-us>

Benefits To Tribal Nations

Relationship Building

The profile assists Tribes with establishing and developing collaborative relationships across all levels of government.

Accessibility to Resources

The profile development process helps identify opportunities for Tribes to utilize CISA resources to enhance emergency communications capabilities through technical assistance, priority telecommunications services, and grant assistance.

Communications Support

Participating Tribes can utilize their profile to communicate their current emergency management capabilities and challenges to tribal leadership, as well as to public safety partners at all levels of government.

Strategic Planning Support

The profile assists Tribes with planning and implementing holistic communications operability and interoperability to expand and strengthen public safety services for their tribal community and neighboring jurisdictions.

CISA has helped Tribes receive regional training, exercise support, and help with creating a dispatch capability, as well as identify opportunities to build physical communications infrastructure.

Profile Methodology

CISA coordinates with Tribal Nations to develop a comprehensive overview of each Tribe's unique structure and capabilities to include:

- ▶ Background (history, land, demographics)
- ▶ Governance landscape and requirements
- ▶ Tribal departments, programs, and services
- ▶ Response capabilities
- ▶ Partnership information
- ▶ Technical capabilities (equipment, infrastructure, and training)
- ▶ Key milestones/activities
- ▶ Funding sources and state and federal assistance
- ▶ Methods for adopting new technology
- ▶ Emergency management activities and gaps/opportunities
- ▶ CISA Technical Assistance requirements
- ▶ Best practices for emergency communications

