NCSWIC®

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators

History

Established in July 2010 and administered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) supports interoperability and Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) by:

Developing products and services to assist SWICs with leveraging relationships, knowledge, and experiences

Promoting the critical importance of emergency communications

Enhancing the response capabilities of public safety responders

What is a SWIC?

A SWIC is a central coordination point for statewide interoperable emergency communications efforts. The SWIC assists in facilitating communications among responders during emergencies and is an important asset when responding to planned and unplanned events. While each SWIC's role in emergency communications is different, core activities include:

- establishing or maintaining governance structures inclusive of stakeholders from all disciplines and levels of government
- developing standard operating procedures
- promoting interoperability of voice and data technologies
- providing training and exercises
- developing and disseminating outreach and education materials
- sharing best practices and recommendations
- identifying funding and grant opportunities
- establishing and maintaining emergency communications policies, plans, and services

Membership: By the Numbers

112
Total Members – Primary & Alternate Representatives from the 56 States and Territories

10
Regional Interoperability Councils

20
Executive Committee Members

"Interoperability is the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to communicate across jurisdictions, disciplines, and levels of government as needed and as authorized."
-National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)

CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

NCSWIC Goals

1 Improve emergency communications and public safety communications interoperability throughout the nation

2 Elevate SWICs as key leaders and advocates in states and territories for public safety communications

3 Execute the goals and objectives outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan[1]

Committee Information

Within NCSWIC, there are four standing committees, each with a sustained focus on a particular topic. Funding and Sustainment and Technology Policy are joint committees with SAFECOM[2].

- *Governance Committee* – examines and develops both internal and external emergency communications governance
- *Planning, Training, and Exercise (PTE) Committee* – provides guidance and best practices for planning, training, and exercises related to public safety communications
- *Funding and Sustainment Committee* – identifies innovative ways to fund emergency communications systems and activities
- *Technology Policy Committee* – promotes the use of technologies, resources, and processes related to emergency communications and interoperability

Accomplishments[3]

Governance
- *SWIC Roles and Responsibilities Document*: provides new SWICs with an overview of their new role
- *SWIC Vacancy Announcement Template*: provides states with a template to use for hiring a SWIC

PTE
- *Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Package:* assists SWICs with navigating the EMAC process
- *COMM-X Joint Training and Exercise Portal:* database of emergency communications training and exercise materials
- COMMVE Exercise package (Scavenger Hunt Format)

Funding and Sustainment
- *Lifecycle Planning Guide:* assists states with maintaining and operating emergency communications systems by sharing funding examples, best practices, and lessons learned
- *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*: provides information for investing federal funds in emergency communications projects

Technology Policy
- *Ten Keys to Improving Alerts, Warnings, & Notifications (AWN):* outlines best practices for successful AWN system management
- *Project 25 Inter-RF Subsystem Interface and Console Subsystem Interface Primer:* provides overview of benefits, challenges, standards, and resources

[1] *National Emergency Communications Plan (www.cisa.gov/necp)*

[2] *NCSWIC works closely with SAFECOM (www.dhs.gov/safecom) to further public safety communications operability and interoperability nationwide*

[3] *Visit the NCSWIC website (www.dhs.gov/safecom/resources) for access to all published resources*