MONTHLY UPDATE

DIRECT FROM DANA

Welcome Rebeccah Roberts – ECN's New Grants Coordinator

ECN is thrilled to have Rebeccah at the helm of division grant management. She brings a wealth of experience to the position and will further assist us in improving our grant management process to ensure we are compliant and audit-proof in every way!

Rebeccah Roberts is an experienced grants coordinator with a background working in the transportation planning and civil engineering industry. Prior to joining DPS-ECN in April 2021, she was an administrative assistant and grants coordinator for a private civil engineering company, contracting with state and local clients to prepare grant applications and evaluate grant-funded projects. She is passionate about finding equitable funding solutions for projects and initiatives that aim to improve the lives of all Minnesotans.

Rebeccah possesses a varied skill set which includes public/stakeholder involvement, long-range planning, and financial reporting. These skills inform her collaborative, data-supported, and future-focused approach to grant management. At DPS-ECN, she will assist with administrating all steps of the grant process. She is available via email at Rebeccah.m.roberts@state.mn.us, or by phone at 612-280-2456.

Happy Retirement Nobles County Sheriff Wilkening!

After a 40-year career in public safety, including 22 years serving as the sheriff of Nobles County, Kent Wilkening has announced that he will be retiring on June 30. Sheriff Wilkening has been a long-standing participant in our regional and statewide governance systems. As an active member of the Southwest Emergency Communications Board, he has helped advance interoperable emergency communications capabilities on both a local and regional level. Sheriff Wilkening has also contributed to statewide governance by serving as the Southwest ECB representative on the Legislative Committee. He also serves on the SECB as the Minnesota Sheriff's Association representative for greater Minnesota.

On behalf of the SECB, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, and ECN, we wish Sheriff Wilkening and his wife, Valeri, a happy and healthy retirement.

Stay connected with the Emergency Communication Networks Division and the Statewide Emergency Communications Board

Visit our website to sign up or manage communications you receive.

Cont. from Direct from Dana

On May 26, Sheriff Wilkening was presented with a small token of our appreciation at the Southwest ECB Region meeting by Lyon County Sheriff Eric Wallen, Yellow Medicine County Commissioner Ron Antony, and Regional Interoperability Coordinator Steve Tait.

Webinars

ECN staff continue to offer bi-monthly webinars to provide content on key topics. Here is the list of Quarter 3 webinars:

- Beyond a Rate Plan: FirstNet Resources to Enhance Response Efforts
  - Tuesday, July 13, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)
- It Can Happen to You: The Importance of PSAP Cybersecurity Assessments
  - Tuesday, July 27, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)
- PSAP Cybersecurity Assessments: The Role of the IT Department
  - Tuesday, August 10, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)
- What is the Location of your Emergency? 9-1-1 Caller Location Technology
  - Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)
- PSAP COOP Planning
  - Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)
- Mobile Applications Integral to Public Safety
  - Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 (9-11 a.m.)

Webinars are recorded and past sessions are available on the ECN website.

9-1-1 Fee Diversion Strike Force

Morrison County Commissioner Jeff Jelinski is representing the Association of Minnesota Counties as one of 10 non-strike force members assigned to serve on one of three working groups. Commissioner Jelinski will serve on Working Group 2, tasked with considering if criminal penalties would prevent diversion.

ECN Director Dana Wahlberg is representing the Minnesota Department of Public Safety on the 17-member Strike Force and serves as vice chair for Working Group 3, tasked with assessing the impacts of diversion.

The first meeting of the Strike Force was June 7, 2021, and each of the three working groups were required to meet before June 11, 2021. The Strike Force must publish its findings by Sept. 23, 2021 and submit them to Congress.

2022-2024 Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan

Planning continues for the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The SCIP provides a "roadmap" that helps guide the Statewide Emergency Communication Board's efforts toward achieving its mission of "*enabling emergency responders and citizens to communicate easily and respond immediately in critical emergency situations by providing reliable and robust systems for interoperable communications across counties, state, federal, and tribal regions*".

The dedicated and collective efforts of stakeholders across all levels of government and public safety disciplines will result in a comprehensive SCIP to help build and sustain interoperable emergency communication capabilities throughout Minnesota and beyond our state borders over the next three years.

We are fortunate to have twice previous facilitator Judy Plante leading the planning efforts, which are expected to be completed in early August 2021 to go into effect Jan. 1, 2022.

Operation Safety Net – Communications Unit

Minnesota law enforcement officials established Operation Safety Net (OSN) to ensure everyone could safely have their voices heard before, during and after

the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin.

OSN leaders identified the need for a Communications Unit (COMU) early in the year and integrated the COMU into incident command and the Multi-Agency Command Center (MACC) throughout planning and operational periods. Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington directed DPS-ECN Director Dana Wahlberg to provide support from the state level. Director Wahlberg assigned Regional Interoperability Coordinator Marcus Bruning to collaborate with the Metro Region and other involved agencies to ensure interoperable communications among public safety responders.

At the initial meeting of the COMU, the team quickly identified the effects of OSN would be felt well beyond the City of Minneapolis and support would be required from across the region, state, and potentially beyond. The group established an objective of broad communications interoperability and determined that interoperability goes well beyond land mobile radio and the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER). 9-1-1 call handling, wireless broadband and IPAWS would be integrated into communication operational planning.

DPS-ECN and MESB staff facilitated weekly collaborative meetings between COMU personnel charged with planning and PSAP leadership from across the Metro Region to keep all Metro PSAPs informed and engaged in planning efforts. The meetings were deliberately called and organized by DPS-ECN to establish an open and inviting environment where all participants had a voice. These were not an agency's meeting (Minneapolis, Hennepin or Ramsey), but collaborative, inclusive, solution-oriented OSN meetings. Every participant had an opportunity to speak at every meeting. Ideas regarding technology, protocols, messaging and ensuring the well-being of communication staff were included in the weekly discussions. DPS-ECN sent briefings to all Minnesota PSAPs to inform agencies who may be supporting OSN of communication planning and solutions in-place. COMU team leaders had significant large event experience. OSN was a planned event that was built upon lessons learned from previous events, both planned and emergent. ECN and the MESB are finalizing an after-

action report to highlight lessons learned and future improvement actions that will enhance interoperable communications statewide.

9-1-1

9-1-1 Program Analyst Dave Denton is back on 136 days of military orders through Sept. 30, 2021. In his role, he is assisting soldiers prepare to deploy to multiple locations during FY22. Thank you for your service, Dave.

Dave and his ever-present subordinate Bentley work closely together to assist soldiers who are heading out on military deployments.

Programmatic Solutions

- The ingress project is in progress and making productive headway. We anticipate originating service providers will begin connecting to the new ingress network by the end of the summer.
- ECN, in conjunction with MESB, are finalizing the RFP for Next Generation Core Services (NGCS), an egress network provider and end-to-end network monitoring and reporting services. We anticipate the RFP will be released before the end of the summer.

HUB site: The communication website is live. The content covers the NG9-1-1 program information and Geographic

Information Systems (GIS) data development status. The information will be helpful for both the public and the stakeholder.

Listed below is a summary of the information included in the communication website:

- About: Basic information about the program, i.e. the why, how, what and who.
- Resources: This section contains topics such as general program information to a detailed description of the Minnesota NG9-1-1 Data Model. In addition, it contain links to standards and domains from the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).
- Status: The status of PSAPs will be tracked as they move through the eight NG9-1-1 GIS validations. This section will include the NG9-1-1 GIS Validation Status Dashboard map, which will have the ability to see summary details at the statewide or regional level. In addition, it has ability to drill down to a single PSAP to see the progress through the validations.
- Contact Us: This section will include contact information for program questions and technical help.

This month's statistics: 29.5 percent of the counties are on or have completed address validation. The purpose of this validation is threefold: (1) ensure that address ranges within the road center line (RCL) segments do not conflict with one another, (2) ensure all valid ALI civic locations can be mapped, and (3) achieve addressing consistency between the ADP, RCL, and MSAG/ALI.

Thank you to all the county, tribal and city data contributors! Your data is making a difference.

Web Based Validation Solution: Development, testing, and documentation of the initial release of the new web based GIS data validation solution is in progress. We anticipate a July launch of the initial rules including the MSAG validations. Soon after that launch we will roll out the boundary validation rules. Throughout the fall, the rest of the current MnGeo validations will be launched and available through the web based solution.

More information about the GIS project can be found on ECN's NG9-1-1 GIS Project website.

If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to the 9-1-1 Program Manager Sandi Stroud (651-201-7551).

Standards

ARMER Standards have been renumbered, re-categorized, and transitioned into the new format on ECN's website.

The format change was necessary to become compliant with ADA requirements "prohibiting any barriers that would inhibit a person with disabilities from accessing a business' goods or services." The standards are now in a plain format with no tables. None of the content was changed.

Renumbering and re-categorization of the standards includes additional areas governed by the Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB), such as Wireless Broadband (WBB) and GIS.

When you go to the Standards page on the ECN website, you will be able to access standards, a flow chart showing the process for standards development and approval, and the Master Standards List.

The Master Standards List includes the new category and number for each standard. Standards with an old (Legacy) standard number will show that number, as well.

Standards will be accessed the same as they were in the past, but you will find all categories on this page, including Integrated Public Alert and Warning (IPAWS) and NG9-1-1 Standards. Wireless Broadband, Miscellaneous, and GIS have categories listed, but there are no standards under them yet. There is an indication of (1) under these categories, but if you click on the category, you will see a placeholder that reads, "There are no standards currently available for this category."

When you click on a large category, such as LMR, you may not see all the standards in that category at a glance. There will be a number and an arrow after the last visible standard. Click on the arrow to see the rest of them.

	LMR-48 (2.9.1)	Talkgroup Site Access and Roaming	12/22/2016
	LMR-49 (3.47.0)	Conventional Resource ARMER Enhancement	5/27/2021
	LMR-50 (1.6.4)	Encryption Key Security	8/24/2017

1 - 50 ▶

⊞ Category : MIS (MISCELLANEOUS) (1)

⊞ Category : WBB (WIRELESS BROADBAND) (1)

The Standards Workgroup calls occur on Mondays from 9:30-11 a.m. Calls are typically held once or twice a month via WebEx. Standards are reviewed line-by-line by the Workgroup, and updates are made as the group deems necessary.

If you would like to be included in the workgroup or want more information, please contact Cathy Anderson ECN Standards & Training Coordinator, at 651-201-7548.

Wireless Broadband - FirstNet

The committee recently reiterated its support of providing public safety designated FirstNet towers in Minnesota. FirstNet has completed 13 of the 23 public safety designated towers, which are due by 2023. The other 10 towers are well on the way to "going live." AT&T has offered hundreds of new band class 14 sites in the state besides those designated by public safety. The commitment to continue to roll out additional coverage and the latest technology is steadfast by AT&T and the FirstNet Authority.

Checkout the progress in this article and photos below to see and read about the first solar powered FirstNet tower and the Bezhik Fire.

Workgroup Update

The workgroup is focused on Strategic Planning. Dave Deal, Committee Chair, and FirstNet Authority Subject Matter Expert, Kyle Richardson, are representing the Wireless Broadband program. The state-wide planning sessions began on June 7th. What initiatives would you like to see under the Wireless Broadband program? Reach out to the Program Manager, Melinda Miller, your Regional Interoperability Coordinator (RIC), the Committee Chairs, or attend the Workgroup on the last Friday of the month at 11 a.m. through Webex. This is your platform to speak up on what first responders need for interoperable communications.

4.9 GHZ FCC Report & Order

As a follow up concerning 4.9 GHZ, the new administration issued a stay order on any action concerning 4.9 GHZ transferring to states.

Best Practice Guides

All of the best practice guides are published on the Wireless Broadband Reports webpage.

Broadband Funding

Funding for broadband overall has increased in the last few months with the American Recovery Act and other federal legislation. This funding is not directed to public safety specifically, however, it is available to communities through the Broadband USA program at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Over the last 15 months, communities have seen the importance of broadband not only for public safety, but for school children doing remote learning, and parents telecommuting to work. Learn more from the Office of Broadband Development at DEED.
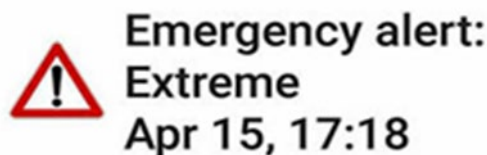
IPAWS

Event Codes in Wireless Emergency Alerts

Event Codes do not appear on mobile phones, except in alerts sent by the National Weather Service (NWS). See the NWS Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) examples below.

The five key elements must be used in your message:

- Source (Sending Agency)
- Hazard (Event Type)
- Guidance (Recommended Action)
- Location (Area Affected)
- Termination Time

Most alerting software supports free-form text. One suggestion is to make your 360-character message first, then shorten it down to 90 characters from there.

Event Code **RWT** (Required Weekly Test) may be used to test WEAs without obtaining a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) waiver. This does not mean that alerting authorities are required to perform weekly tests of WEA. RWT is simply an approved Event Code to perform tests of WEA.

Please note, before performing any live tests, we encourage Alerting Authorities to practice with IPAWS Lab.

Only phones opted-in to tests will receive test WEAs. See pages 45-47 of the Statewide Alert, Warning and Notification Best Practices Guide for instructions on getting your phone(s) enabled to receive these alerts.

Event Codes in Emergency Alert System Messages

Event Codes do appear in EAS messages, particularly within a TV scroll. Be cautious when using **EVI** (Immediate Evacuation) or **SPW** (Shelter in Place) for an EAS alert, since the initial alert on screen display will appear to apply to the entire county. This may result in public confusion if an order is intended for a small area of a county. For example: "A CIVIL AUTHORITY HAS ISSUED AN EVACUATION IMMEDIATE FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES / AREAS:…"

Take care to avoid ambiguity, particularly in large counties and neighboring counties where stations may monitor adjoining jurisdiction(s). It can cause undue concern and overload to 9-1-1 call centers.

Note: EAS broadcast by TV and radio stations is voluntary and Alerting Authorities will want to coordinate with local broadcasters to ensure their messages are carried.

Any questions about event codes can be directed to John Dooley (651-201-7099).

What is the IPAWS toll-free phone number again?

Toll-Free: 1-84-IPAWSLAB or 1-844-729-7522

What can I expect when the service receives my call?

The answering service is a contracted vendor who will receive your call. Please be prepared to provide the answering service with the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Telephone number

- Brief description of issue

The operator will transfer your call to IPAWS Lab 24/7 TSSD personnel for assistance. On-call lab personnel will determine the level of support to meet your needs and act accordingly.

Grants

ECN administers a suite of grant programs funded by a combination of federal grants and an apportionment of the 9-1-1 Special Revenue Fund. With the addition of Rebeccah Roberts, ECN Grants Coordinator, to the ECN team, the division is looking forward to incorporating state and federal best practices in to its grants administration processes over the coming months. Key grant updates are included in the sections below:

NG 9-1-1 Grant Program

In 2019, ECN was awarded grant funding through the federal 9-1-1 Grant Program. This program is intended to support the transition of PSAPs and the interconnecting 911 network and core services, to facilitate migration to a digital, IP-enabled emergency network, and adoption and operation of NG9-1-1 services and applications. Projects funded through this grant program include:

- GIS Data Collection: Approximately $2.87 million in grant funding ($1.72 million in federal funds plus a required 40 percent match provided by ECN totaling $1.15 million) was made available for eligible jurisdictions to complete all phases of NG 9-1-1 GIS data preparation on or before the first quarter of 2021.
- Call Handling Equipment: Approximately $1.62 million in grant funding ($973,289 in federal funds plus a required 40 percent match provided by ECN totaling $648,859) was made available to support the purchase and installation of upgraded NG 9- 1-1 compliant call handling equipment in selected public safety answering points (PSAPs).
- CAD-to-CAD interoperability: Approximately $150,000 in grant funding ($90,000 in federal funds plus a required 40 percent match provided by ECN totaling $60,000) was made available to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a CAD-

to-CAD interoperability solution within the Southeast ECB region.

Over the course of the past 18 months, the recipients of NG 9-1-1 Grant Program funding have made great progress towards completing the bulk of the work associated with these projects. As of May 1, 2021, only 21 percent (approximately $835,000) in available funding for these projects has been expended. ECN has contacted each recipient of NG 9-1-1 Grant Program funding to request an updated project plan. This will help ensure that project milestones are completed by the end of the grant's performance period (March 2022) and any surplus funding is returned to ECN so it can be assessed for potential reallocation to other eligible projects.

FFY 2020 SHSP Grant Program

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) is a federally funded grant program intended to support efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) awarded ECN $175,000 in grant funding to support the following projects that will be completed in 2021:

- $100,000 (Equipment) — Acquire and install the equipment/technology necessary to improve cross-border Land Mobile Radio (LMR) interoperability capabilities with surrounding states.
- $25,000 (Planning) — Develop standardized curriculum/lesson plans for the following training courses:
  - Cross Border Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System Interoperability
  - ARMER System End User Training (All Hazards-All Disciplines)
  - ARMER System End User Training (Discipline Specific-Fire Service)
- $25,000 (Training) — Host the following training courses in Q3/Q4 2021:
  - ARMER System End User (Train the Trainer)
  - ARMER System Administrator
  - Motorola APX Radio Programming

- $25,000 (Exercise) — Plan and conduct emergency communication related exercises in Q3/Q4 2021 that include:

  - A Communications Unit (COMU) and Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) workshop.

Other exercise opportunities that incorporate the use of interoperable communication systems to support the response to an emergency, disaster, and/or act of terrorism.

2022-2023 SECB Grant Program

ECN has been working to establish guiding documents for the 2022-2023 SECB Grant Program with input from the SECB Grants Workgroup. Upon legislative approval of the state budget, the 18-month activity period for this grant will occur between January 2022 and June 2023. Applications are tentatively planned to open around September of 2021. This grant cycle will incorporate updated application forms based on state and federal best practices, the SECB-approved grant hierarchy, as well as the lessons learned from a two-day workshop attended by Regional Interoperability Coordinator Steve Tait in May. Key takeaways that will be incorporated into the ECN grant application process include:

- Planning, including the development of a Project Work Plan, is an essential element of the grant application process:

  - What advance work can be done to prepare for the grant application?
    - What are your needs/priorities?
    - Do you have the information/data to support those needs/priorities?
  - Does your proposed project fall within the eligible uses of the grant funds?
  - If required, can you supply the local matching funds?
  - Do you have the resources/capacity to complete the proposed project within the grant's performance period?

- Grant applications should be more than just a "fill in the blank" form. A request for grant funding should include a detailed proposal that includes the following elements:

  - Who you are (What is your agency/organization all about?)
  - Why you need grant funding (What problem are you trying to fix?)
  - What do you intend to accomplish with the grant funding (Goals and Objectives)?
  - How you will accomplish these goals and objectives (Methodology)?
  - How will you evaluate and measure success?
  - What is the timeline for accomplishing accomplish the goals and objectives?
  - What is the budget for accomplishing the goals and objectives? What POETE (Planning, Organizational, Equipment, Training, and Exercise) categories do these expenditures fall in?
  - How will you sustain this project once the grant funding ends?

ECN intends to host an in person grant planning workshop in Q3/Q4 2021 to help our stakeholders prepare their grant applications for the upcoming 2022-2023 SECB Grant Program cycle. Additional details regarding the date, time, and location will be provided in the coming weeks.

If you have questions about any of these grant programs, please reach out to ECN Grants Coordinator Rebeccah Roberts (612-280-2456).

Training

ECN continues to offer training sessions for our stakeholders. The sessions, hosted by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) or the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), have been filling up fast.

Here is a summary of recent courses, past and upcoming:

- April: Several of Minnesota's PSAP personnel were able to enroll in a virtual Incident Tactical Dispatch (INTD) course being held for another state that had openings.
- May: A virtual IS-300 course was held to replace a cancelled February IS-300 course.
- June: Virtual IS-300 and Virtual INTD courses are scheduled.

- July: A virtual IS-400 course is scheduled and is full. We are hoping to receive one more IS-400 offering but will not know until sometime in July. There are a few spots on the waiting list.
- August: A virtual IS-300 course and a virtual COML course are scheduled. There are some spots left for the IS-300, but the COML is full and has a waiting list.

When new courses become available, they are announced via ECN's GovDelivery email list serve.

If you would like to receive upcoming training opportunities or request a spot in one of the courses with openings, contact Cathy Anderson (651-201-7548).

Accounting/Finance Update

The Minnesota fiscal year (FY) begins on July 1 and ends on June 30, so it is a busy time for finance staff as we approach the close of FY21 and prepare to begin FY22. In the last quarter of FY21 a change in the TAP (Telephone Assistance Plan) fee went into effect. Service providers remit TAP fees to ECN along with 9-1-1 and Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) fees. It has overall been a smooth transition for companies remitting TAP – most had received notice and remitted using the correct fee amount and updated form. ECN finance staff is working to ensure all companies are up-to-speed and assisting with adjustments when needed.

The 9-1-1 fee is expected to change in FY22, dependent on the outcome of Minnesota's legislative process. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved the Department of Commerce's Budget and Surcharge Recommendations to reduce the TAM fee in FY22. The recommendations included language tying the TAM fee change to the date of implementation for the expected 9-1-1 fee change. ECN appreciates the foresight of our partners at the Department of Commerce in coordinating the timing of the fee changes. This will allow for coordinated rollout of new forms and updated information, easing the transition for telecommunications providers and third-party

compliance companies remitting Minnesota telephone fees.