

MONTHLY UPDATE



DIRECT FROM DANA



Staffing Update



Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) Division is excited to announce that following an eight-month vacancy, we have a new financial coordinator. Please join us in welcoming Claire Thomas as our newest ECN team member. Claire comes to us from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, where she worked in the Victim Assistance Program. Claire has only been with us for almost three weeks, but has already been a tremendous asset in accepting several key responsibilities on the financial side of the house. Claire is an avid reader, enjoys gardening and cooking, and like any good Minnesotan, she loves getting outdoors year round but particularly enjoys summer trips to the family cabin.

ECN is eager to continue moving forward with three additional hires in the coming months in an effort to alleviate some of the excess burden staff has been managing for several months.

E9-1-1 Audit Information

As the completed annual E9-1-1 audit forms for 2019 are being returned to us, it is apparent that many entities are not in compliance with state statute regarding the required separation of E9-1-1 funds from general funds within budgets.

Minnesota Statutes, section 403.113, subdivision 2(b), states funds shall be deposited ***“in an interest bearing fund or account separate from the government entity’s general fund.”***

This statutory requirement is noted in two places on the audit form, and the signatory to the audit is certifying the audit complies to Minnesota Statute, section 403.113 in regard to deposits, interest allocation, and expenditures.

When you remit your audit for calendar year 2019, please include a year-end statement that shows the balance in the E9-1-1 Account. If you are not currently managing a separate account, please simply send a copy of the budget line item identifying the ending balance as of Dec. 31, 2019.

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March 2020

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Cont. from Director Notes

For those entities who do not currently deposit the monthly E9-1-1 allocations into an ***interest-bearing fund or account that is separate from your general fund account***, we request that you take immediate action to become compliant with this requirement.

Depositing E9-1-1 funds into a general fund account does not meet this requirement even if you move the funds to a separate line item internal to that account. Funds must be retained in a separate interest-bearing account. Please make this correction no later than July 1, 2020.

ECN is already starting preliminary preparation for our next biennial budget for the legislature. We must have substantiated data to identify Public Safety Answering Points' (PSAPs') increased financial needs in order to meet the expectations of implementing the new technology and equipment necessary to continue Minnesota's deployment to an end-state Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) environment.

For those who have already sent your audit in with your supporting financial documentation (regardless of whether or not it is in compliance with Minnesota Statute, section 403.113), you do not need to resend your information.

9-1-1 NEWS

GIS

On Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, members of ECN and Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) met with the Red Lake Nation Leadership at Red Lake Day at the Capitol to discuss NG9-1-1. Minnesota Department of Public Safety Assistant Commissioner Bruce West introduced how 9-1-1 services are affected by the use of cell phones. ECN Regional Interoperability Coordinator Marcus Bruning continued the conversation. Bruning mentioned that NG9-1-1 will use geographic information systems (GIS) data to improve the accuracy of the caller's location verses E9-1-1 tabular list. The Red Lake Nation agreed to continue discussions with the state about how

their data could improve 9-1-1 response for the Red Lake Nation's PSAP and the statewide program.

A special thank you to Red Lake Nation leadership and staff for their support and help in moving this project forward.

The Minnesota NG9-1-1 GIS Implementation Roadmap has been distributed to all Minnesota PSAP and GIS partners statewide for review and feedback. This long-anticipated document is meant to provide transparency and detail of the end-state plan for implementing an NG9-1-1 GIS program in the state.

ECN is eager for feedback from the 9-1-1 and GIS community in Minnesota. The comment period will be 30 days.

The document feedback will be reviewed weekly, and a full list of the questions will be made public at the end of the comment period.

We are so fortunate to have the expertise and enthusiasm of the talented MnGeo team dedicated to helping us navigate through this monumental and foundational public safety initiative for NG9-1-1 call routing and location information in Minnesota.

More information about the GIS project can be found on ECN's NG9-1-1 [GIS Project website](#).

[Norm Anderson](#) (651-201-2483 or 651-201-7559) is the GIS Project Manager for ECN and MnGeo. [Akiko Nakamura](#) (651-201-7558) from our office is also working on the project, so please feel free to reach out to either one of them with questions related to the GIS project.

Ingress Network Update (LMR)

ECN is pleased to announce our partnership with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT), in an effort to upgrade the network currently serving the statewide Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) microwave network. This effort will involve updates at each tower site allowing for future technology growth, capacity management, and better maintenance monitoring. We are in the very early stages, after kicking this project off with a productive brainstorming session, on March 4 between MnDOT, MNIT, and ECN. This collaboration will

ensure that the ARMER network is ready to support the upcoming system upgrade agreement (SUA) with Motorola. Please feel free to contact [Jim Stromberg](#) (651-201-7557) or [Leslie Sticht](#) (651-201-7550).

ARMER

SUA Negotiations Overview

ARMER subsystem owners and other infrastructure (e.g., MCC-7500 consoles) owners share the costs to keep ARMER current and uniform. The total costs are defined by MnDOT's contract with the ARMER system vendor, Motorola. As the largest proportional owner of ARMER infrastructure, the state pays the majority of costs associated with this contract. Local subsystem and infrastructure owners share a fractionalized portion of the remaining balance; those costs are defined and mutually agreed upon through individual contracts with MnDOT. At present, the state is preparing for formal negotiations for a five-year SUA contract for the years 2021 through 2025.

In December 2017, Motorola first presented a budgetary estimate to the state in the amount of \$45 million for a five-year SUA. That proposal was rejected based on cost and lack of detail. MnDOT and ECN staff subsequently met several times with Motorola and negotiated the initial budgetary estimate down to \$33 million. In July and November 2018, ECN invited ARMER owners to meet with Motorola, requesting they clarify and justify their pricing for the next contract. The group of ARMER owners clearly and collectively agreed and specified that Motorola's price cannot be justified without more detail.

ECN provides the majority of the funding to support the state's ARMER costs. As a matter of due diligence, and in an effort to obtain the most value for the least cost to taxpayers, ECN hired Tusa Consulting to assist with preparing for and executing the actual contract negotiations for the SUA. ECN and Tusa are optimistic that negotiations will yield more detail along with a lower price point.

ECN fully understands that ARMER subsystem and other infrastructure owners are preparing local budgets and would like hard data on future SUA costs. That data is not

yet known. However, proportional costs for local owners were defined and shared by MnDOT with ARMER owners in 2018. This remains the best data available at this time and is the budgetary estimate owners should be using for budget planning purposes.

Inter-Zone Patching

At the request of the Land Mobile Radio Committee (LMRC), the Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB) sent a letter to Motorola expressing dissatisfaction with how inter-zone patching worked. ARMER system administrators discovered in 2019 when talkgroups mapped to different zones were patched, end users on different talkgroups were able to transmit over the top of another radio user transmitting on the other side of a patch.

Motorola recently advised Minnesota of a potential fix to this issue and, at its February 2020 meeting, presented their proposal to the LMRC. The committee tabled the discussion for a month so committee members may socialize the proposed solution with their regions. The topic will be discussed again at the March 10, 2020 LMRC.

Wireless Broadband - FirstNet

User Forum

The Wireless Broadband Program had a very productive February. In the first week of the month, the team met with several dozen stakeholders at the User Forums in Walker, St. Cloud and North Mankato. FirstNet and AT&T presented their buildout status, the capabilities of the local control system, and the do's and don'ts for requesting the FirstNet deployables. Our Wireless Broadband team heard a lot of great input regarding their broadband needs, gaps, and directions that will be wrapped into our next steps in the coming month. The team would like to thank all those who participated and made these forums productive.

Minnesota Wireless Broadband Survey is a Wrap!

The Wireless Broadband Data Use and Application Survey has now closed with nearly 400 responses from over 70

Minnesota border counties, giving them access to ARMER. These technology deployments have resulted in varying degrees of implementation and success. As Minnesota's neighbors now migrate from legacy county-run VHF radio systems to their own statewide radio systems, the way we look at interstate interoperability must evolve. To that end, SWIC Stromberg and Regional Interoperability Coordinator Tait have drafted an Interstate Interoperability Best Practices Guide and a detailed technical plan.

The Interoperability Committee has supported the creation of a workgroup to review and refine these two draft documents. SWIC Stromberg specifically asked for one technical and one operational/dispatch representative from each Emergency Communications/Services Board region to participate. Five of the seven regions have identified representatives to this workgroup, so the first meeting should be set up soon. Please contact SWIC [Jim Stromberg](mailto:Jim.Stromberg@mn.gov) (651-201-7557) if you are interested in serving on this workgroup.

[Minnesota Land Mobile Radio Conventional Interoperability Plan](#)

In January 2020, the Interoperability Committee and the SECB approved the 2020 Minnesota Land Mobile Radio Conventional Interoperability Plan. This plan calls for the refreshing of Minnesota's fixed conventional VHF and 800 MHz interoperability resources. Next, MnDOT will endeavor to define a technical transition plan, and ECN will work on updating standards as well as a training plan. A copy of the plan can be found on the [ECN Interoperability webpage](#).

AHA/CPR Legislation Status

Minnesota State Statute 403.03, *911 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED*, mandates that every Minnesota PSAP maintain a telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation (T-CPR) program. The implementation date for all Minnesota PSAPs to become compliant is July 1, 2021. You can access the statute here:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/403.03>

The NG9-1-1 Committee has assembled a standards workgroup to write a state standard that will restate the legislation in a manner that clearly shows the PSAP's compliance options.

Once the workgroup completes a draft standard, it will be presented to the NG9-1-1 Committee for their feedback. After the NG9-1-1 Committee approves it, the committee chair will then take the standard to SECB for their approval.

Participating in the NG9-1-1 Committee meetings will help you stay informed. You can access meeting information and materials here:

<https://dps.mn.gov/entity/secb/Pages/meeting-documents.aspx>

Upcoming Events

Please watch for an important update regarding the Public Safety Communications Conference which will be provided soon!