

California Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (CalSCIP)

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The Department of Commerce will issue \$1 billion in funding for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant program by September 30, 2007 to local and state governments for interoperable communications equipment and associated planning, training and exercises. As part of the grant requirements, the Department of Homeland security has moved the required date for completion of all draft Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) to September 1, 2007. Final SCIPs must be submitted by September 30, 2007 in order to coincide with the Department of Commerce PSIC program deadline. Additionally, Investment Justifications for projects selected by the states for the PSIC grant program must likewise be submitted by September 30, 2007.

Vision for CalSCIP:

1. Focus on a long term strategy
2. Focus on resources that are available within the CALSIEC Planning Regions for use across regions and/or statewide to support first responder interoperability. While the SCIP will primarily address voice communications, it is also required to address, at minimum, a strategy for data interoperability.
3. Resources can be deployable to other parts of the state (or neighboring states) or fixed and used to support out-of-area responders that come into a region to provide assistance.

Example resources: 1) Radio caches; 2) Gateways; 3) Shared Channels, including deployable and fixed infrastructure operating on state and/or national interoperability channels; 4) Shared systems used regionally or statewide for interoperability.

Necessary Components of CalSCIP:

Quoting a nationally known fire chief, “To be usable and of value, I need a SCIP that I can carry in my vehicle, not one that I need my vehicle to carry.”

1. Volume I: Administrative
 - a. California's planning process: the organization, roles, and responsibilities of CALSIEC and PSRSPC and their various member agencies.
 - b. The state's long term strategy to realize a “system-of-systems” approach to providing interoperability among first responder agencies across all levels of government in California (including Federal and Tribal), as well as with our neighboring states.
2. Volume II: Field Operations Guide (FOG)
 - a. Designed to be taken into the field and used by ICS Command Staff and Communications Unit personnel to assist with managing incidents of all sizes.
 - b. Initial input to the FOG will be a consolidated compendium of existing statewide plans (CALCORD, CLEMARS, FIREMARS, etc).
 - c. Eventual availability in soft format, allowing Communication Unit Leaders to cut/paste interoperability resources from pre-filled ICS forms.