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# Idaho Emergency Communications Commission

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## Annual Report to the Idaho State Legislature—January 2005

### Creation

Legislation was passed during the 2004 session of the Idaho Legislature to create the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission. Idaho Code Section 31-4816 outlines its purpose and responsibilities as follows:

- (1) Determine the status and operability of consolidated emergency communications systems statewide;
- (2) Determine needs for upgrade of consolidated emergency communications systems;
- (3) Determine the costs for the upgrades;
- (4) Recommend guidelines and standards for operation of consolidated emergency communications systems;
- (5) Recommend funding mechanisms for future implementation of upgrades;
- (6) Serve as a conduit for the future allocation of federal grant funds to support the delivery of consolidated emergency communications systems;
- (7) Report annually to the legislature of the State of Idaho on the planned expenditures for the next fiscal year, the collected revenues and moneys disbursed from the fund and the programs or projects in progress, completed or anticipated;
- (8) Enter into contracts with experts, agents, employees or consultants as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and
- (9) Promulgate rules pursuant to the provisions of chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code, to carry out the purposes of the Commission's duties.

## Membership

The Commission consists of 14 members—13 are voting members. Three are members by nature of their position—Director of the Idaho State Police or designee, Adjutant General or designee, and a representative of the Attorney General’s Office, who is also the ex officio member. The remaining members are appointed by the Governor and represent various local statewide governmental associations, and the public and private sectors. Members include:

Mayor Garret Nancolas -- *Chairman*  
Idaho Association of Cities

Commissioner Matt Beebe  
Idaho Association of Counties

Sheriff Gary Aman, Owyhee County  
Idaho Sheriffs Association

Chief R. David Moore -- *Treasurer*  
Idaho Chiefs of Police Association

Chief Ben Estes  
Idaho Fire Chiefs Association

Teresa Baker  
Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Dia Gainor, Chief  
Idaho State Emergency Medical  
Services Communication Center

Dennis Johnson  
Idaho Emergency Medical Services Assoc.

Clint Berry  
Traditional Phone Service Industry

James Lemm  
Wireless Industry

Representative Rich Wills -- *Vice Chairman*  
Public at Large

Joanna Guilfooy, Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Administration

Adjutant General Lawrence LaFrenz  
Designee: Bill Bishop, Director,  
Bureau of Homeland Security

Colonel Dan Charboneau, ISP Director  
Designee: Ann Cronin, Special  
Assistant—*Commission Secretary*

## Activities and Accomplishments

The Commission conducted five meetings between August '04 and January '05.

### **Education:**

With the help of a professional facilitator, the Commission members reached a consensus on their immediate priorities and responsibilities. Subsequently, they arranged time to educate themselves on current issues of relevance to the charge of the Commission.

Information was provided on existing charges for emergency communications fees in counties; telecommunications and wireless services in Idaho; the universal emergency telecommunication number system; E911 status in local government; the state microwave system; Bureau of Homeland Security; and, Statewide Interoperability Executive Council.

### **County Assessments of Emergency Communications Fees:**

The Idaho Emergency Communications Act provides flexibility for the Commission to assess up to 1% of all emergency communications fees collected by providers from each county, to fund its operation. At its September meeting, the Commission took action to **assess each county the full 1%** to commence at the end of the first quarter of the counties' fiscal year (October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004). Counties have begun to send these funds to the State Treasurer's Office for deposit into the Emergency Communications Fund. Responsibility for the administration of this Fund is placed within the Department of Administration

### **Operations:**

Based on the 1% assessment level, the Commission approved an annual operating **budget** for FY05 of \$97,500—85% of total annual projected revenues in the amount of \$114,700. To fund the operations of the Commission prior to transmittal of receipts from the counties, the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) provided funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be utilized between August 1, 2004 and January 30, 2005, at which time any remaining funds will be returned to the BHS. To date, about \$4,550 has been collected from various counties. Anticipated quarterly revenues are about \$28,000.

The Commission established a set of **operating procedures** to address its public records, open meetings, membership and terms, meeting procedures, and officers. The Commission also adopted a **mission statement**: *Enhancing Idaho's public health, safety, and welfare by assisting emergency communications and response professionals in the establishment, management, operations, and accountability of consolidated emergency communications systems.*

### **Communications, and National Representation:**

Commissioner Cronin was elected by the Commission to serve as its member delegate with the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA).

An Idaho Emergency Communications Commission website has been created and can be accessed at **e911.Idaho.gov**

### **Mediation:**

In anticipation of requests from local governmental entities for mediation services, the Commission negotiated and approved a set of mediation rules—ADAPA 38.06.01. **The rules have been published and are now effective as temporary and proposed** until the 2006 legislative session when they will be considered by the Legislature for permanent status.

Since, the Commission has **received a request for mediation**. As required by its rules for mediation, the Commission formally requested additional information from the three entities named. The Commission is currently awaiting their responses.

### **Survey of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP):**

The Commission is in the process of crafting a survey to be sent to all counties soliciting detailed information about its PSAP's. The information will be utilized to develop a profile of each PSAP as well as a needs assessment to achieve Phase II E911 compliance, as defined by the Federal Communications Commission. In the process, an estimate of probable cost to bring each PSAP Phase II to E911 compliance will be discovered.

Once the survey has been finalized, Ada County has agreed to share its expertise in implementing it, electronically consolidating results, as well as summarizing the data into a written report. This will save the Commission the expense and time involved with hiring a consultant, as originally anticipated.

### Next Steps

The Commission generally meets the morning of the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have been scheduled for February 3, 2005, March 3, 2005, and April 7, 2005.

The initial task of the Commission in 2005 is to potentially **conduct its first mediation** session based upon responses from the effected parties.

Concurrently, it will be working with Ada County on **finalizing the PSAP survey**, for distribution to all counties. Once the raw data has been collected, the Commission can begin to **analyze and identify areas in the state that lack enhanced 911 capabilities**. Subsequently, it will begin to **devise a plan and cost estimate** to bring the entire state into Phase II E911 compliance, **recommend guidelines and standards for operation** of consolidated emergency communications systems, **recommend funding** mechanisms for implementation of upgrades, and eventually serve as a **conduit for future allocation** of federal grant funds.

During its initial six months, the Commission established itself, and a foundation from which to advance its charge and mission. Eventually, as its workload continues to expand, the Commission may address the possibility of engaging the help of staff that is allocated for its **operation**.

### Attachments

- Operating budget as of 12/31/04
- Estimated Sources and Uses of Funds as of 12/31/04