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# Idaho Emergency Communications Commission

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## Annual Report to the Idaho Legislature – January 23, 2006

### 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 the needs for the 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

Greg Vickers  
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 eleven meetings between January 2005 and January 2006. In an effort to reach other areas of the State, one meeting was held in Twin Falls, one in Coeur d'Alene, and one in Pocatello.

### **Operations:**

Based on the 1% assessment level, the Commission approved an annual operating **budget** for FY06 of \$115,500—85% of total annual projected revenues in the amount of \$114,700 plus an \$18,000 grant received from the Bureau of Homeland Security. During FY05, \$105,355.27 was collected from various counties.

The Commission negotiated and approved a set of rules governing the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission Grants—IDAPA 38.06.02. The Commission is directed to distribute moneys in the Idaho Emergency Communications Fund to eligible entities and these rules will govern the grant process. 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.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) granted to the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission \$18,000 to support technology transfer to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Idaho. The State of Idaho participated in the 2004 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) which acquired 1-meter, natural color digital aerial imagery for the entire state. This data, however, was in a format that was unusable by most of the computer-aided dispatch software in use by PSAPs in the state. This grant provided for the conversion of the data into a usable product, providing the data to all PSAPs in the state.

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

Commissioner Cronin was elected by the Commission to serve as its member delegate with the National Emergency Number Association (**NENA**) in addition to her role as its member delegate with the National Association of State 911 Administrators (**NASNA**). Commissioner Cronin also serves as a liaison for the Commission at the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (**SIEC**) meetings.

In anticipation of the Commission's role in serving as a conduit for the future allocation of federal grant funds to support the delivery of consolidated emergency communications systems, the Commission selected Commissioner Baker to attend a three-day grant writing course offered at Boise State University.

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

### **Mediation:**

The Commission negotiated and approved a set of mediation rules—IDAPA 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.

The Commission conducted its first mediation in April 2005, at the request of Twin Falls County and the cities of Kimberly and Buhl. The issue concerned payments to Twin Falls County for amounts billed related to the Southern Idaho Regional Communication Center (SIRCOM). The mediation resulted in the Commission making four recommendations to the parties involved in an effort to resolve the issues between them.

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

The Commission issued a survey to all counties soliciting detailed information about their PSAPs. Responses were received from all 44 counties, SIRCOM, and the six cities in Idaho that have PSAPs. The information has been compiled and 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 to E911 Phase II compliance will be discovered.

#### Next Steps:

Using the data received from the PSAP Survey, the Commission will 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 E911 Phase II 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.

The Commission is researching the possibility of creating a **full-time State E911 Coordinator** position. Statistics show states that have a full-time E911 Coordinator have made greater progress in achieving enhanced 911 capabilities than states that do not have one.

The Commission will also be researching the issue of **collecting emergency communications fees on prepaid wireless service**.

#### Attachments:

- Operating budget as of 12/31/05
- Estimated Sources and Uses of Funds as of 12/31/05
- Rules Governing the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission
- Grant Rules