2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Keeping Public Safety Connected

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Our mission is to support Public Safety Communications & 911 Services for State, Local and Federal government agencies on a regional or statewide basis.

July 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Utah Communications Authority (UCA) has experienced a renaissance. We have emerged from the difficulties of the past year stronger, more agile, and, above all, hyper vigilant. We have implemented accounting and auditing processes consistent with industry standards and legislative regulations, which will drastically mitigate our exposure to misconduct. The UCA is—and always has been—passionately dedicated to the mission of public safety. Absent the services we provide, the triad of public safety (police, fire, EMS) cannot perform effectively. Quite literally, public safety communications is a lifesaving function; and in Utah, the UCA provisions the facilitators of public safety communications. That is a sacred responsibility, which we endeavor to serve each and every day. Utah's population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the nation. Consequently, the complexities associated with that growth impact our communications customers in various ways.

In an effort to increase service levels to our customers, during the coming year, the UCA will: (a) develop a comprehensive strategic plan that details a multi-year capital project schedule that will replace or upgrade the statewide radio backbone; (b) promote functional integration of existing public safety communication networks with the state backbone; (c) estimate the cost of completing the state backbone to comport with industry standards, local subsystems, and the potential advantages to expanding public sector participation in the project; (d) estimate fiscal analysis relative to funding required to cover debt service of revenue bonds issued to finance the cost of completing the statewide radio system upgrade and expansion; and (e) make recommendations for a project governance implementation plan.

The societal specters of the twenty-first century—including terrorism, global economic calamities, and large-scale natural disasters—are eventualities we must plan for. And it is often not immediately understood how those challenges will impact our ability to deliver the life-saving services we provide. However, our unmatched commitment to customer service dictates that we forecast future needs today. Our staff of technical experts install, maintain, and upgrade communications equipment statewide. However, some of the most important work we perform is strategic planning. We employ experts with vast public safety and communications expertise and experience. That knowledge allows the UCA to serve as one of Utah's most integral public safety entities.

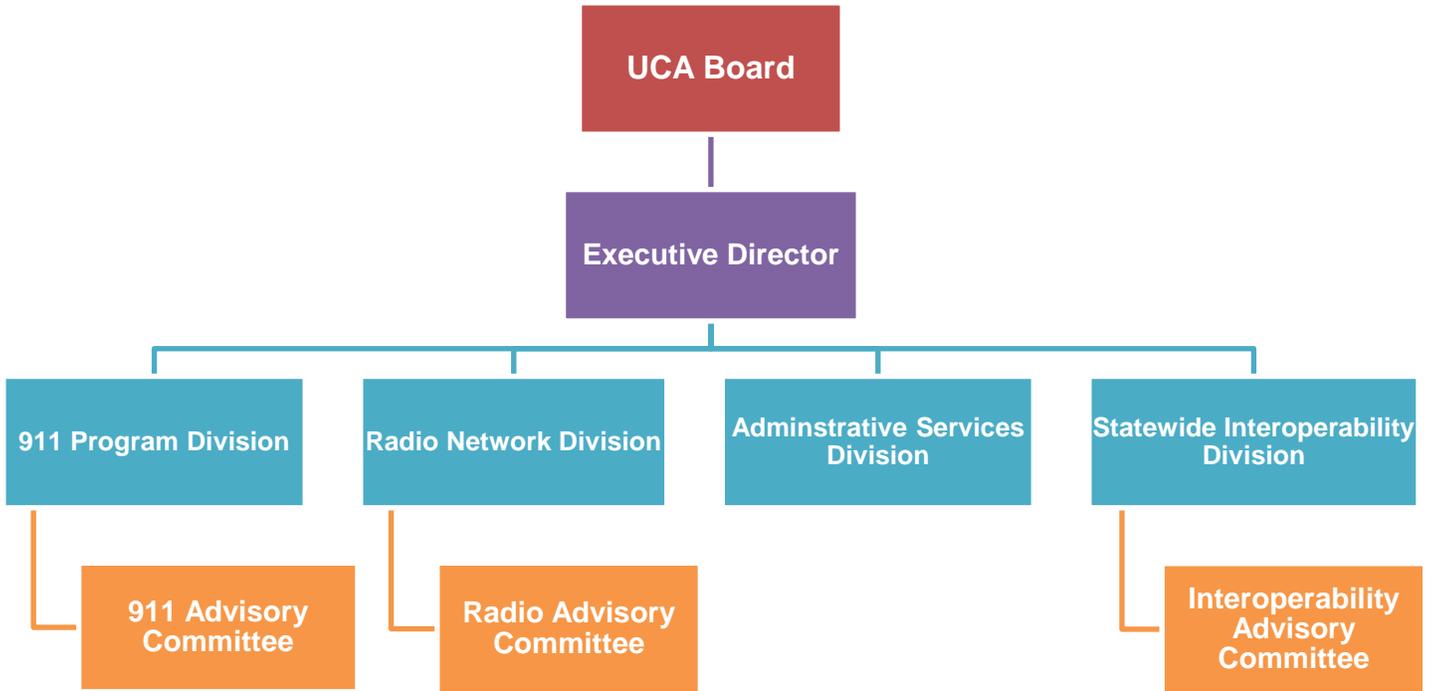This annual report is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis. Although we are required by statute to include certain information in this report, we have taken the liberty to include additional information the reader may find instructive. It is an honor to serve the noble mission of public safety.

Respectfully,

David A. Edmunds

David A. Edmunds
Executive Director
Utah Communications Authority

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

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The Utah Communications Authority manages the 911 Program, which includes oversight of the 911 Advisory Committee, Vision for Next Gen 911, and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform development.

Mission

It is the Mission of the UCA 911 Division, and Advisory Committee, to support the highest quality and most cost effective emergency 9-1-1 call delivery system to the citizens of Utah, its emergency responders, and all visitors to our State.

Introduction

The provision of the professional, comprehensive, and expeditious emergency 911 call processing is paramount to public safety and emergency responders. It is for the benefit of the public as a whole that Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the State of Utah provide the highest standard of service possible, regardless of geographic location or fiscal ability. It is the goal of the 911 Division and the 911 Advisory Committee to ensure that public funds are spent in a manner consistent with this defined level of service, maximizing the efficiency of the statewide system for the greatest overall benefit to the people and maintaining compliance to the statewide strategic plan.

The UCA 911 Division, and the 911 Advisory Committee, have been working collaboratively with Utah PSAPs to lead 911 service delivery in the State steadily into the future. Via Next Generation 911 (NG 911) technology such as IP based call routing, multi-agency shared geo-diverse telephone systems, shared Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, and CAD to CAD interfaces Utah is at the forefront of the industry in 911 emergency telecommunications. Some of the numerous ongoing projects are:

NG 911 Deployment

We have been steadily transitioning PSAPs from the legacy 911 network to the NG911 platform allowing for Internet Protocol (IP) based call routing via an Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESInet). This migration has been underway since 2014 and we expect that the entire state will be switched over to an ESInet configuration by the end of 2018. An IP based NG911 platform costs less to operate and is required to allow for the delivery of NG911 services such as text to 911.

Text To 911

Text-to-911 service is currently available along the Wasatch Front in Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Weber and Morgan County, as well as Bountiful City. Three PSAPs in Davis County, Layton City, Clearfield City, and the Davis County Sheriff's Office just recently completed an upgrade to their phone system and they will be text to 911 capable by the end of the year.

The five PSAPs in Utah County are also in the process of making a similar system upgrade and should be text to 911 capable by the end of the first quarter of 2017. Other PSAPs across the State are already scheduled for either equipment upgrades or migration of their existing system to the ESInet which will allow text-to-911 service statewide by 2019.

Text-to-911 service allows silent access to 911 service adding to caller safety in certain situations, and provides crucial access to emergency services for our deaf and hard of hearing community.

PSAP Data Sharing Aggregator (CAD to CAD)

To increase interoperability many Utah PSAPs have implemented CAD to CAD connections that allow efficient data sharing and help increase public safety. In an effort to increase this CAD to CAD sharing ability to all PSAPs in the State, while also controlling costs to the taxpayers, the 911 Division and Advisory Committee are exploring the ability to deploy a cloud based data aggregator. The data sharing aggregator would allow PSAPs to securely share CAD and other incident data to another, or all, PSAPs in the state via a single connection, rather than the multiple connections required now. An RFI has been completed for this project and we anticipate the information gathered leading to an RFP to secure a system solution.

Statewide Wireless Call Routing Study

A comprehensive study of over 20K cell-site sectors that includes coverage areas, ESRK & ESN verification & evaluation, call location analysis, PSAP routing sheet updates, and wireless 911 call transfer patterns is currently underway. The goal of this study is to reduce the number of 911 call transfers wherever possible by ensuring the calls are routed to the correct PSAP initially. This is a very large undertaking and is the first study of its kind to be attempted on a statewide basis in the nation.

MSAG Cleanup

The 911 Division is in the process of acquiring the entire Utah Automatic Location Identification (ALI) database in preparation for the migration to NG911 call routing, which is based on Geographic Information System (GIS) data in place of the traditional Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) database. This cleanup is needed to sanitize and purge errors in the data in order to have accurate 911 call routing for both landline and wireless caller locations in an NG911 environment.

Statewide Administrative Rules, Policies & Performance Metrics

The 911 Division has drafted a complete re-write of the administrative rules & operational policies under which the Division and Advisory Committee operate. Particular attention was paid to the recommendations provided in the Legislative Auditor General's report 2016-02 and include minimum PSAP requirements and performance metrics tied to funding incentives. The 911 Division has identified several PSAPs in Utah that fall below industry standards with regard to staffing, training, equipment, and the provision of pre-arrival instructions

for medical calls for service. This is due in large part to a lack of funding at the local level via the 911 fees collected. The new draft rules, if adopted, have provisions to provide additional support to smaller counties, via grants from restricted accounts, in an attempt to address these shortcomings. The 911 Division has also been assisting the BEMS with Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) training and certifications for struggling PSAPs and have been asked to work with them in the redrafting of their administrative rules to better coordinate the oversight of EMD trained PSAP staff.
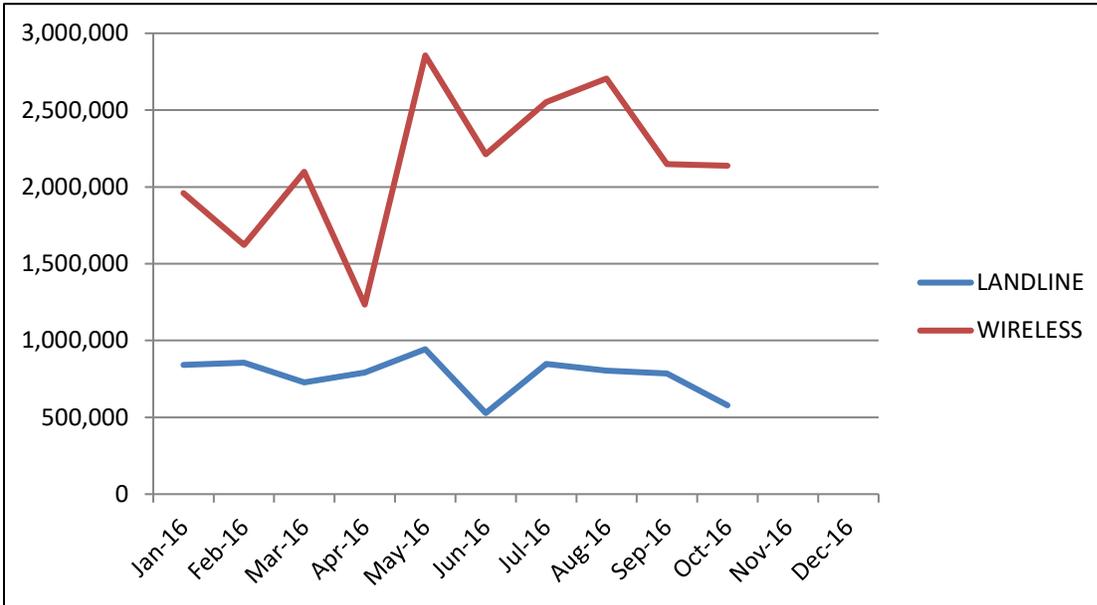
Anticipated Expenditures

The Unified Statewide Restricted Account as defined in **67H-7a-304**, sometimes referred to as the .09 cent fund, currently funds Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) which is the 911 telephone system within a PSAP. These funds support the upgrade or replacement of the 911 call processing systems as they reach the end of their life expectancy. Due to the moratorium placed on the expenditure of these funds until June 2017, except as defined in statute, the fund balance has grown and as of September 30th, 2016 was $6,755,004. During this time numerous needed 911 system upgrades were delayed and must now be addressed in 2017. The anticipated expenditures from this fund are for calendar year 2017, as the projects for which these funds are being budgeted are based on timelines provided by the CPE vendors and actual implementation dates vary. The 911 Division estimates expenditures from the Unified Statewide account to be $7,407,375.00 through the remainder of fiscal year 2017 and the first half of fiscal year 2018. These expenditures include anticipated grant awards, division operational expenses, and continuation of existing contracts for services. With the anticipated revenues collected over the next year, this would leave an ending balance of approximately $2,539,928.00.

The CAD Restricted Account as defined in **67H-7a-303**, sometimes referred to as the .06 cent fund, has been in existence since 2014 and has assisted with the funding of the Weber County CAD project, and with the CAD to CAD interfaces and connections between 19 Utah PSAPs. The fund balance as of September 30th, 2016 was $2,591,194. With the recent approval of the Salt Lake County consolidated CAD grant for the amount of $6,522,802.00, which will be reimbursed in equal payments over a three year period ending in fiscal year 2019, and other planned CAD projects the total anticipated expenditures from the CAD restricted account during calendar year 2017 is $3,804,640.00. With the anticipated revenues collected over the next year the 911 Division estimates an ending fund balance of approximately $930,000.
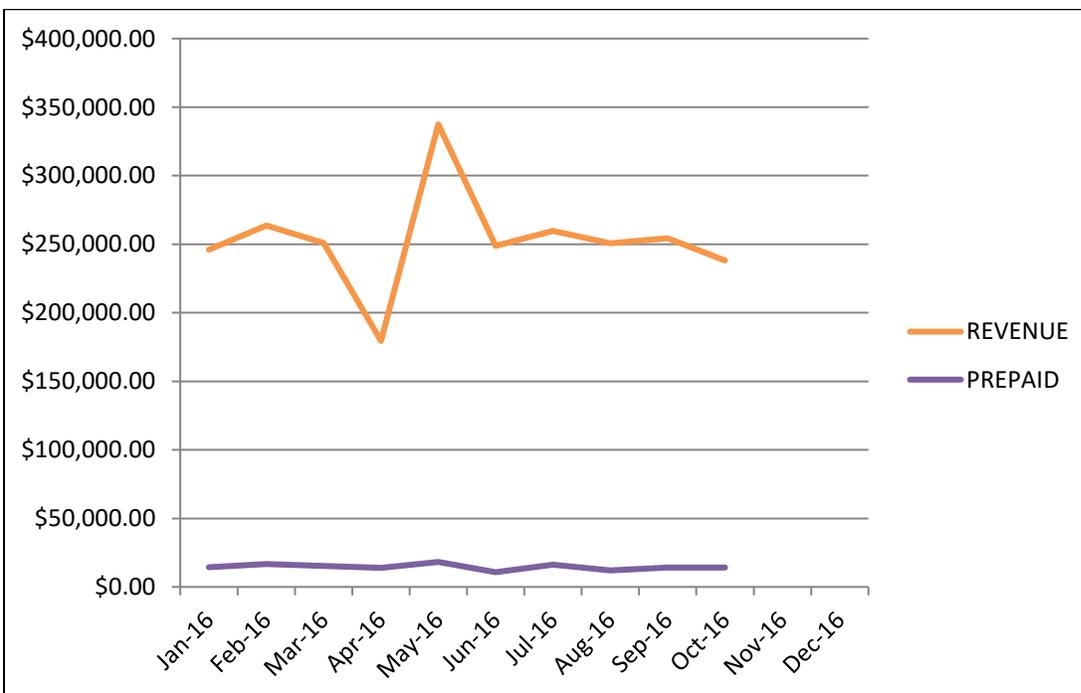
Anticipated Expenditures for Calendar Year 2017	
Unified Statewide Account (.9 cent fund)	$5,555,000.00
CAD Restricted Account (.6 cent fund)	$3,804,640.00
Combined Total	$9,359,640.00

Fees and Trends

911 fees collected in the State of Utah are based on the number of phone lines reported by the various telecommunications providers in the state and thus affect the amount of funds collected at both the local and state level. According to Utah State Tax Commission reports the number of reported wireline phones in the state is just under one million, and has remained relatively flat with a slight downward trend of less than 1% per year decline. The number of reported wireless phones is over two million, and has steadily increased by approximately 8% per year. (See chart below)

The revenues collected for traditional wireline and wireless phone service have remained flat since 2013 with less than a 1% growth. The revenues collected for prepaid phone service has steadily increased by approximately 5% per year, though the dollar amount collected is minimal. (See chart below.)

The total fees collected at the local level for the 12 months period of October 1st, 2015 and October 1st, 2016 were $23,393,786.44 and has been broken down by the amount collected by each municipality on the table below.

Local 911 Fee Collections by Municipality	
Municipality	**Remittance last 12 months**
Beaver County	$116,580.85
Box Elder County	$450,138.48
Logan	$807,234.77
Carbon County	$151,811.77
Daggett County	$7,966.33
Davis County	$1,100,280.75
Bountiful	$628,120.51
Clearfield	$220,183.04
Layton	$549,848.13
Emery County	$74,822.05
Garfield County	$46,911.30
Grand County	$78,160.53
Iron County	$313,621.90
Juab County	$78,267.91
Kane County	$69,372.39
Millard County	$132,393.13
Rich County	$4,463.95
Garden City	$7,371.20
Laketown	$2,019.16
Randolph	$4,685.46
Woodruff	$1,714.38
Salt Lake County	$1,237,203.63
Bluffdale	$79,748.75
Cottonwood Heights	$336,731.66
Herriman	$173,819.86
Riverton	$300,103.77
Salt Lake City	$3,269,436.62
Taylorsville	$408,018.76
VECC	$3,925,001.76
San Juan County	$74,042.03
Sanpete County	$177,261.70
Sevier County	$182,154.00
Summit County	$453,868.48
Tooele County	$420,527.05
Uintah County	$494,558.34
Utah County	$1,904,065.03
Lindon	$101,300.01
Orem	$677,101.40
Pleasant Grove	$236,295.85
Provo	$652,137.60
Springville	$266,959.67
Wasatch County	$212,904.61
St George	$1,072,604.87
Hildale	$5,499.32
Weber County	$1,886,473.68
Total	**$23,393,786.44**

Call Volumes

PSAPs in the State of Utah took more than 1.1 million 911 calls in the period between October 2015 and October 2016. About 86% of these, or 968,822 calls, were from wireless devices. Followed by 116,569 calls from traditional wireline phones, and 34,512 calls coming from VoIP phones such as Vonage and Magic Jack. The number and type of calls, or class of service, has been broken down per PSAP on the following chart.

911 Calls by Class of Service

Report Period:
Last 12 months (10-01-2015 through 9-30-2016)

	Wireline	Wireless	VOIP	Total 911
Beaver County Sheriff	449	2,797	19	3,265
Bountiful PD	1,906	17,860	1,046	20,812
Clearfield PD	1,328	11,684	303	13,315
Davis County Sheriff	2,384	33,470	1,335	37,189
DPS/Box Elder Communications	1,092	16,402	387	17,881
DPS/Cedar Communications Center	1,673	13,449	255	15,377
DPS/Richfield	1,531	9,075	84	10,690
DPS/Salt Lake Communications Center	272	37,708	192	38,172
DPS/Uintah Basin Communications	2,000	14,251	46	16,297
Emery County Sheriff	528	3,716	41	4,285
EOC Carbon County	1,308	6,435	29	7,772
Garfield County	855	1,275	14	2,144
Grand County Sheriff	1,049	5,920	31	7,000
Juab County Sheriff	547	4,590	56	5,193
Kane County	643	2,921	29	3,593
Layton PD	1,719	18,651	865	21,235
Logan PD	2,300	21,701	1,018	25,019
Millard County Sheriff	463	4,806	22	5,291
Orem City PD	2,282	24,863	96	27,241
Park City PD	614	986	27	1,627
Pleasant Grove PD	440	6,541	182	7,163
Provo City PD	3,577	26,685	996	31,258
Rich County 9-1-1	641	932	6	1,579
Salt Lake City 9-1-1	25,398	151,763	5,803	182,964
Salt Lake Valley (VECC)	25,506	256,143	11,273	292,922
San Juan County Sheriff	934	5,756	42	6,732
Sanpete County Dispatch	1,052	4,407	13	5,472
Springville PD	763	7,383	340	8,486
St George Police Communications	5,091	37,224	1,503	43,818
Summit County Sheriff	4,676	13,545	392	18,613
Tooele County Sheriff	2,456	18,754	448	21,658
Unified Police Department	2,598	42,253	1,808	46,659
University of Utah 9-1-1	66	214	2	282
Utah Valley Dispatch	9,352	52,228	1,903	63,483
Wasatch County Sheriff	1,549	6,837	136	8,522
Weber Area Dispatch 9-1-1	7,527	85,597	3,770	96,894
Total	116,569	968,822	34,512	1,119,903

Public Safety Radio & Microwave Connectivity

Radio Network Division

On May 31, 1942 The Utah Highway Patrol activated its first Dispatch Station, KUHP. This dispatch center served primarily the Wasatch Front. This was a one-way system and the first transmitter was active all of the time. Everything that was said in the dispatch office was broadcast. The dispatcher rang a bell into the microphone to alert a trooper. The trooper received the summons in his car on the AM radio. He then got to the nearest phone and called the dispatch center for details. Because the signal was transmitted over AM radio, citizens could also hear the call and assist in locating the trooper.

A lot has changed since 1942. Public Safety Radio has progressed from One-Way AM Radio, to Low-band to High-band (VHF) Two-Way FM and now to 800 MHz. For those who have been around through most of the changes the comments have been the same. Low–Band to High Band, High-Band to 800 MHz, "It will never work". Change is hard but most of the time it is for the best. UCA builds and maintains both the VHF System and the 800 MHz system. Both work well, and both have their good and bad points. Trunking radio has distinct advantages in that radio roam automatically from one site to another without switching channels or even realizing that you may have just roamed through four or five sites on your drive from Ogden to Salt Lake. If there's a bad part about that it is that when a user drives out of the 800 MHz coverage area they need to have two (VHF) radios and know the geographical areas where sites are located and switch to the appropriate sites in order to communicate.

Unfortunately we have no way to track traffic volume or numbers of radios on the VHF conventional system but because the trunked system is so computer driven we are able to collect any number of statistics. Here are some radio traffic statistics as of 10-21-2016:

- 28110, active radios on the 800 MHz system.
- 121, 800 MHz sites, of which 18 are conventional only
- 160,000 PTT every 24 hours
- 111 PTT on average every minute of the year.

The following are accomplishment that have occurred in the past twelve months:

- New Harmony Site completed and provided need coverage on I-15 from Fort Harmony to Toquerville.
- Bruin Mtn, added 800 MHz coverage to the area of Carbon, Emery, Duchesne, and Unitah Counties.
- Teasdale, added 800 MHz coverage to the Wayne County area.
- The following site are expected to be completed by mid-December.
- Vermillion Cliff, north of Kanab,
- Clear Creek, covering much of HWY 89 and SR 9 into Zions National Park
- Spencer's, expected to cover a significant portion of HWY 89
- Point of Rocks, expected to cover the HWY 58 south to the Arizona Including the Hildale Area.

The following has also occurred in the last 12 months:

- Ordered replacement VHF radios for the following counties:
    - Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Washington, Iron, Beaver, Millard, Box Elder, Cache, Cache, Rich, Weber, Summit.
- Designed, ordered and started installation of a 200Mbps IP/T1 microwave ring for Central Utah, Highway 89 Project
- Ordered Towers and assisted with project planning for DPS Dispatch Centers in Iron and Box Elder Counties, work in progress
- Replaced two of three DACS devices, work in progress.
- Designed and installed wireless connectivity for DNR/DTS for the following locations:
    - Wasatch County Forestry and Fire Building
    - Hardware Ranch
    - Logan Fish Hatchery
    - Logan Gun Range
    - Willard Bay State Park
    - Lee Kay Center
    - Draper Drivers License Division
    - Wendover P.O.E.
    - Goblin Valley State Park, work in progress
    - Veterans Memorial
    - Jordanelle State Park, UHP Section Office
    - UHP POST Driving Range
    - Utah State University BDA installation
- Ordered and installed 800 Mhz radios for Central Utah Health Department in Loa, Junction, Mount Pleasant and Delta
- Assisted Summit County with county wide paging system upgrade, total radio replacement and connectivity at all sites
- Installed Microwave connectivity from VECC to University of Utah Police Department
- Designed and installed radio system for the UDOT Avalanche Forecasters to enable them to communicate with all of the local ski resorts with one portable radio.
- Replaced and combined backup battery bank at Lewis Peak
- Assisted Grand County with dispatch center move
- Increased bandwidth at Camp Williams alternate EOC
- Completed the installation of a 200Mbps microwave ring in Weber and Davis counties

Mission

To achieve interoperable communications, the Utah Communications Authority Interoperability Division will provide a strategic framework that will help develop and support communications, partnerships with state, local, tribal, and federal public safety entities through the efficient development and use of communication resources, policies, procedures, training, and exercises.

Vision

Fiscally sustainable, interoperable statewide voice and data network that enables responders in Utah to effectively communicate across disparate systems during normal activities or during any type of event or disaster, as they discharge their duties to protect lives and property.

Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals represent the priorities for delivering Utah's vision for interoperable and emergency communications.

- ***Governance*** *–*
  - *Facilitate a forum to discuss interoperability strategies, goals, and solutions*

- ***Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)*** *–*
  - *Create, formalize, and maintain SOPs for interoperable communications for multi-jurisdictional incidents*
  - *Establish a written SOP for interoperability channels*

- ***Technology*** *–*
  - *Upgrade current radio technology*

- ***Training and Exercises*** *–*
  - *Incorporate communications processes into all training and exercises, including PSAPs, COMLs, COMTs, and AUXComm*
  - *Support training for newly developed and adopted SOPs*
  - *Conduct additional COML and COMT training*
  - *Conduct Incident Dispatcher Training*
  - *Develop training curriculum for radio system expansion to address additional footprint and impact on PSAPs and communications centers*

- ***Usage*** *–*
  - *To encourage the proper use of interoperable channels during incidents and planned events supporting multiple disciplines and agencies*

- ***Outreach and Information Sharing*** *–*
  - *Provide outreach and education in support of public safety interoperable communications*

- ***Life Cycle Funding*** *–*
  - *Identify and recommend sustainable funding mechanisms to support public safety communications*

Utah Emergency Communications Annex

The Interoperability Division, along with many stakeholders in Utah's emergency communications, met with the FEMA Disaster Emergency communications (DEC) Division to update Utah's Emergency communications annex.

The Utah Emergency Communications Annex (Communications Annex) contains information regarding emergency communications organization, capabilities, requirements, and mitigation strategies for the State of Utah. It serves as a planning guide for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Emergency Communications (DEC) Division and the DEC Regional Branch. The purpose of the Communications Annex is to articulate a comprehensive understanding of the Utah disaster emergency communications environment to:

- Strengthen FEMA's response to emergency communications needs through detailed depiction of the State's and Tribes' disaster emergency communication capabilities and needs.

- Support response and recovery by coordinating emergency communications solutions and mitigation strategies to restore and/or augment communications to the Whole Community of first responders.

Following a disaster declaration, FEMA DEC Division and the DEC Regional Branch use information in this Annex to aid in planning disaster emergency communications support for Utah. The Annex was developed in coordination with statewide stakeholders and includes information about major communications systems, equipment, and infrastructure; points of contact; and risk analysis based on anticipated hazards in the State. Should a regional incident or event occur, FEMA DEC Division and the DEC Regional Branch will use this Annex in conjunction with other State Annexes to the Region VIII Regional Emergency Communications Plan to support disaster emergency communications from a regional perspective.

Navajo Nation Tour

The Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission hosted FirstNet staff and the state SPOCS from Arizona and Utah for a tour of several Navajo communities and communications sites in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as a work session. The Commission meeting provided an opportunity to introduce the state SPOCs and the FirstNet team, as well as to discuss coverage objectives for the states in which the Navajo Nation lies, Navajo 9-1-1, teaming opportunities for

Tribal entities, the appointment of a Navajo delegate to the FirstNet Tribal Working Group, and planning for future engagements with the Navajo Nation. The overall event was a great opportunity to engage with one of the largest and most active tribes in the country.

Great Utah Shakeout 2016

The Utah State Emergency Response Team (SERT) meets monthly in the state EOC to train for possible emergency events man made or natural, which may occur.

The UCA Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) serves as the Emergency Services 2 (ESF2) Communications lead on the SERT Team.

In April this year the SWIC participated with the SERT team in the annual Great Utah Shake Out earthquake drill.

About 946,000 Utahans signed up in one form or another to participate in the Great Utah Shakeout. They included elementary schools, state offices, businesses, and a group of high-level emergency coordinators at the Emergency Operations Center in the State Capitol complex. Jona Whitesides directs the state Preparedness Bureau, and he said the point of the Shakeout is to make sure Utahns don't get complacent."Actually, we have a couple hundred earthquakes a year," Whitesides said. "Obviously they're very small and you don't feel them, but on the Wasatch Front, we've got the Wasatch fault line, which is huge. And, quite frankly, we're overdue for an earthquake."

UCA SWIC participated in the joint National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) and SAFECOM meeting held April 26-27, 2016 in Jacksonville Florida. Topics discussed:

- **OEC's Collaboration Efforts across States**
  Objective: Hear from OEC's Deputy Director on recent initiatives aimed to benefit NCSWIC and SWICs in their states.
- **Funding mechanisms for emergency communications systems**
  Objective: Receive information on the various methods of funding emergency communications systems (e.g., bonds, special tax, surcharges), and specific examples of where these methods have been used to fund state and local systems.
- **Demonstrating impact and value: emergency communications performance metrics**
  Objective: Hear about Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR). Gain and understanding of how THIRA and SPR benefit state and local stakeholders. Participate in small group discussions to provide input to OEC on additional emergency communications metrics not represented in THIRA.
- **What does it mean: Public Safety grade versus mission critical?**
  Objective: Receive information on the definition of public safety grade versus Mission Critical across the emergency communications landscape. Gather input from the SWIC community to develop a holistic definition of public safety grade from their perspective.
- **OEC Technical Assistance Input and Feedback**
  Objective: Receive information and provide input and feedback on the objectives and measurement criteria for the urban area interoperability assessments; the value of the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and SCIP Snapshot; and Communications Asset Management (CASM) Tool.
- **National Governors Association (NGA) Emergency Communications Policy Academy**
  Objective: Hear from NGA representatives and OEC leads on coordination efforts to develop best practices and tools on governance for the new emergency communications landscape through an NGA Policy Academy.
- **Improving Interoperability through Frequency Sharing**
  Objective: Receive information on recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) interoperability frequency license changes and the role of the SWIC. Discuss how interoperability can be improved through frequency sharing.
- **Succession Planning: What to Do When the SWIC Leaves?**
  Objective: Discuss ways OEC can assist SWICs with succession planning, including determining means of advocating the value of the SWIC in the state.

NGA Interoperability Policy Academy

As one of five of five Utah team members, the UCA Interoperability Division is participating in the NGA Interoperability Policy Academy to enhance emergency communications interoperability in Utah.

To assist states in improving emergency communications capabilities, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center), in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), today awarded five states the opportunity to participate in an NGA Policy Academy on *Enhancing Emergency Communications Interoperability*. The five states invited to participate are Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Utah, and West Virginia.

In May, Utah's five member team traveled to Boise Idaho along with the other five states teams and participated in the Policy Academy kick-off meeting. Each state gave a presentation on the current environment of emergency communications in their respective states. The NGA staff helped each state facilitate a SWOT analysis indentifying each states strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This information was used as data for the in-state stake holder meeting which was held August 30th.

This meeting was well attended. Presenters were, Senator Wayne Harper, Rear Admiral (Ret) David Simpson FCC, UHP Colonel Mike Rapich, Program Director NGA Timothy Blute, UCA Chair Tina Mathieu, Deputy Director OEC Chris Essid, Utah SWIC Gordy Coles, 9-1-1 Project Manager Shawn Messinger and DPS Communications Bureau Chief Capt. Doug McCleve.

After the presentations, a panel discussion was facilitated by the NGA staff allowing the stakeholders present, to ask questions of the panel addressing their communications interoperability observations and concerns. On the panel were: Tina Mathieu, Gordy Coles, Shawn Messinger and UCA Executive Director Dave Edmunds.

The Final meeting for the NGA Interoperability Policy Academy is scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd.

Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Work Group (RECCWG)

Utah SWIC, Gordy Coles gave an update on UCA communications projects at the Region VIII RECCWG meeting held in Salt Lake City Utah in May. Updates included 800 MHz trunked site installations along Hwy 89 to improve 800MHz coverage in south central Utah, FirstNet, Utah's participation in the NGA Interoperability Policy Academy, SCIP workshop, and interoperability challenges in south central Utah, specifically with respect to the difficulties with patching 800 and VHF users by the Richfield dispatch center. The other region VIII states present also gave updates from their respective states.

Tracey Murdock, FirstNet Region VIII Consultation Lead also gave a briefing on where FirstNet currently is in their RFP Process for a partner to help build out the NPSBN.

The RECCWG's were established the Department of Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended (P.L. 109-295), section 1805.

The RECCWG's serve as a key venue for coordination among Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency response organizations.

Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Stakeholder Meeting

Utah SPOC, Gordy Coles attended the PCSR Public Safety Stakeholder meeting in San Diego Ca.

The *PSCR* program hosted its latest *Public safety broadband* Stakeholder Meeting. The three-day meeting, which had over 500 attendees, brought together representatives from public safety, Federal agencies, industry, and academia. Participants learned about recent work efforts related to the build out of the *NPSBN* as well as test results from the PSCR program's PSBB 700-MHz Band 14 Demonstration Network.
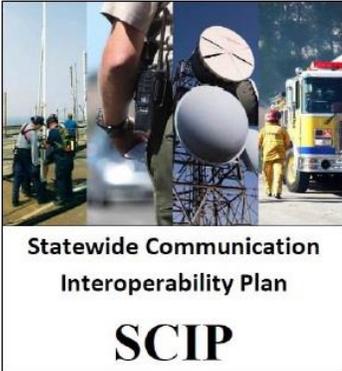
The meeting provided an opportunity for FirstNet Board members and their technical staff to inform stakeholders about current FirstNet efforts, as well as provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback to FirstNet, PSCR, *DHS, NTIA,* and other partners. Meeting topics included:
Current PSCR efforts in the areas of:

- Research & development road mapping

- *3GPP* standards work

- Evaluation of tools addressing network congestion and priority

- Extended range communications testing

- Research assessing broadband codecs in loud noise environments

- *D2D* and high power over *LTE* modeling to inform public safety

- In-building testing and extended-range cell testing

- Cyber security research concerning public safety mobile applications and identity management

- FirstNet acquisition, consultation and outreach for input

Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Workshop

Statewide Communication
Interoperability Plan

SCIP

The Interoperability Division requested a Technical Assistance (TA) from the Department of Emergency Communications (OEC) to update Utah's Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP). In July OEC came to Utah and facilitated a SCIP update workshop. Utah SWIC, Gordy Coles worked with OEC to plan out this workshop. The Workshop was attended by approximately 40 stakeholders from state, local and tribal entities in Utah. All worked together to review and update the plans goals for interoperability. The plan is in draft form and is scheduled for review and finalization.

Region 8 Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption Task Team

Utah SWIC and four other Utah team members participated in the Region VIII Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption (QPP) Consultation Task Team (CTT) meeting in Montana on August 25th. Utah and the teams from the other region VIII states focused on the provisioning of users, devices, and applications; network coverage and capacity in rural areas; and establishing local control across state boundaries.

UCA SWIC participated in the joint National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) and SAFECOM meeting held Oct 26th-27th, 2016 In Norman Oklahoma. Topics discussed:

- **National Capabilities Baseline Assessment (NCBA) Overview**

  Objective: Engage in a discussion on efforts to update the Baseline   Assessment, including revisions to questionnaire language since 2006. Participate in collaborative discussions at your tables to evaluate assessment questions to ensure they are reflective of today's complex emergency communications environment.

- **Update on Developing a Nationwide Communications Unit (COMU) Governance Structure**

  Objective: Hear from the COMU Working Group on progress towards developing recommendations on a nationwide communications governance structure.

- **Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) Discussion on Encryption and Standards**

  Objective: Address concerns relative to LMR encryption and the P25 Standards, including P25 CAP Testing. Provide updates related to NCSWIC-FPIC LMR Sustainment activity.

- **Federal and Non-Federal Interoperability Update**

  Objective: Learn about the implementation of recent changes to the use and availability of federal and non-federal interoperability channels. Also, engage in a discussion on action items related to the pending MOU for I/O Channel Access.

- **Back to the Basics: Brainstorming Nationwide Interoperability Goals for 2017**

  Objective: Leveraging expertise across the programs, SAFECOM and NCSWIC members will brainstorm at their tables to determine several key interoperability goals on which SAFECOM and NCSWIC should focus for 2017.

- **National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy on Enhancing Emergency Communications Interoperability**

  Objective: Gain insights from NGA, OEC, and stakeholders involved in the recent Policy Academies focused on enhancing governance for emergency communications interoperability.

- **Statewide Governance and Planning Integrated Project Team (IPT)**

  Objective: Hear from those involved in OEC's efforts to transform products and services to align with stakeholders' needs.

- **Working Session: Utilizing NCSWIC Promotional Materials**

    Objective: Hold an open discussion on a suite of products developed by NCSWIC committees, including tips for properly utilizing each product within and across states.

- **Funding Communications Systems Panel**

    Objective: Hear from states on various funding models used to support initial capital investments in public safety communications projects.

FirstNet Programmatic Environmental Impact Study (PEIS)

The Utah Programmatic Environmental Impact Study (PEIS) public meeting was held August 27th, 4:00-8:00PM, in the Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek.

Eli Veenendaal, FirstNet Environmental Attorney, hosted an open house meant to share information and address questions from the public. This meeting was announced to Utah stakeholders and also advertised in news papers. There was no attendance at this meeting.