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Looking Toward the Future - An Invitation to Participate in Regional Governance

As initially mentioned in the summer issue of the 2009 Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Newsletter, the SIEC and Idaho's statewide emergency response stakeholders have begun meetings to form and implement regionally focused practitioner-driven interoperable communications governance. The governance structures will utilize a regional approach and

leverage the working agreements and investments already in place among the Idaho emergency response community. Their first task will be to determine how the systems will be operated, maintained, and sustained. The SIEC invites your participation.

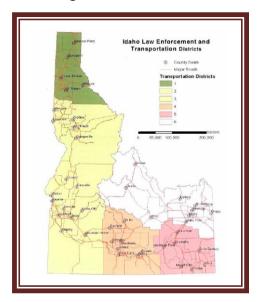
Why is governance important?

For any State and its regions to improve communications interoperability, collaboration and participation from relevant emergency response stakeholders is essential. A formalized, statewide governance system provides a unified approach across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions; this approach aids the funding, effectiveness, and overall support for communications interoperability. Establishing a governing body and overarching system is critical to successfully addressing the key challenges associated with achieving Interoperable communications.

Governance and Technology are
differing parts of
interoperable communications.
Technology refers
to the "material objects" of a
communications system;
Governance is the
practioner-driven "power to"
for shared
decision-making, shared resources,
and shared protocols.

Statewide governance and coordination also provide the framework in which stakeholders can collaborate and make decisions that reflect shared objectives. Official governance systems prove to be beneficial in that they are respectful of individual agencies' roles and responsibilities, yet provide each agency with the communication networks necessary to cooperate with other agencies.

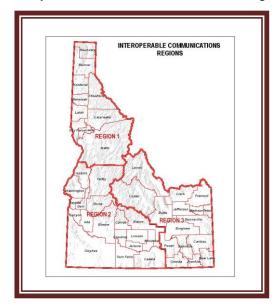
How will governance be achieved?



Interoperability hinges on diverse stakeholders cooperating across disciplines and jurisdictions. For Idaho's purposes, the term "governance" is used to describe a support system that helps decision makers within Federal, State, local, and tribal governments make informed decisions that meet stakeholder requirements.

Therefore, the SIEC has developed a plan to formally establish three regional governance boards. To begin, these boards will be comprised of stakeholders at the local and tribal District levels of government, and will honor the mutual aid relationships currently recognized throughout a jurisdiction. The process will begin with outreach to those individuals most involved in public

safety communications decision making who are authorized to represent the interests of their



jurisdiction. The District meetings will identify individuals to be seated on the regional governance boards.

The pilot for this project began in Districts 5 & 6; future meetings in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 are scheduled for the September-October timeframe.

Please visit the BHS website www.bhs.idaho.gov, click on **Events**, beginning September 3rd for more information on District meetings or contact Dodie Collier SIEC Program Manager at 208.407.6914.