



Executive Summary

SAFECOM Emergency Communications Intergovernmental Roundtable

June 28, 2011 • San Diego, CA



On June 28, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) hosted a SAFECOM Emergency Communications Intergovernmental Roundtable as part of the SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) and Emergency Response Council (ERC) meetings in San Diego, California. The Roundtable featured representatives from the City of San Diego and State of California emergency response community. Meeting attendees included EC and ERC members as well as Federal representatives from the National Institute of Standards and Technology; Department of Justice; Federal Communications Commission; and DHS, including OEC and the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC). The discussion served as a unique opportunity for SAFECOM members and Federal partners to learn about partnerships between

Federal, State, local, and tribal members of the San Diego emergency response community.

Key outcomes of the SAFECOM Emergency Communications Intergovernmental Roundtable included:

- Awareness of interoperability advancements and lessons learned in the San Diego area
 - OEC Director Chris Essid and SAFECOM Chair Kevin McGinnis welcomed participants and introduced Chip Yarborough, Heartland Communications Facility Authority, who spoke briefly about the state of emergency communications in San Diego.
 - Panel members spoke about public safety initiatives in San Diego, including the Regional Computer-Aided Dispatch Interoperability Project and San Diego's overall regional approach to interoperability. The panel included:
 - **Chief Don Butz**, Viejas Fire Department
 - **Denny Neville**, San Diego State University Research Foundation
 - **Don Root**, San Diego County Regional Communications System
 - **Chief Mike Scott**, Heartland Fire and Rescue
 - **Chip Yarborough**, Heartland Communications Facility Authority
- Enhanced partnerships among all levels of government
 - The panelists participated in a question and answer session with SAFECOM members. The panelists discussed past and present challenges they have overcome in developing a regional approach to interoperability. The panel shared how the San Diego area has been successful in incorporating tribal nations into regional emergency communications plans. Further discussion centered on sustainable funding for emergency communications initiatives and emerging technologies, planning for staffing challenges such as retirements and mental fatigue, and cross-border communications efforts.

About SAFECOM Emergency Response Council

SAFECOM is an emergency communications program of OEC and OIC. Through collaboration with emergency responders and policymakers across all levels of government, SAFECOM works to improve multi-jurisdictional and intergovernmental communications interoperability. SAFECOM is comprised of members from national associations representing the emergency response community and intergovernmental officials, public safety at-large members representing emergency responders in the field across the Nation, and contributing Federal agencies.