



SWIC

Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator

**Texas Statewide Communications
Interoperability Plan**

TxICC Newsletter

The SWIC Office issues a monthly Newsletter!

If you don't receive a copy in your email, let us know and we will add you to our distribution list.

TXSWIC@dps.Texas.gov

Or.....



TxICC Monthly - August 2026

COG/RPC & TxICC SEC Delegate Notice: Bridge4PS Account Registration

The Texas SWIC's Office issued sponsored Bridge4PS accounts to each Council of Governments (COG), Regional Planning Commission (RPC), or Texas Interoperability Communications Coalition SEC delegate. These accounts will serve as the primary communication platform between the SWIC's office and regional representatives for interoperability coordination and information sharing.

Our records indicate there are some COGs, RPCs, or TxICC SEC delegates that have not yet completed the account registration process. The deadline to complete the registration process is no later than August 31, 2026.



TxICC and SWIC Office Releases:



- Texas Report on Interoperability to the Texas Legislature released on 9/01/26
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/interoprpt.pdf>
- Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) updated on 11/18/25
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/texasscip.pdf>
- Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP) revised 9/1/24 (a revision is in progress)
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/tsicpMOU.pdf>

What changed in the SCIP?



- Updated requirements for grant funded radios
- Multi-band (VHF, UHF, and 7/800MHz)
- Multi-key AES encryption (You can still have DES and ADP/ARC4)
- IF trunking is enabled then,
- Phase II (TDMA)
- Over-the-air-rekeying (OTAR)
- Defined a Regional Radio System
- Modified and added new implementation goals
- Updated National markers to measure the state on interoperability

What is a Region Radio System?



- Coverage in three or more counties or at least 2000 square miles
- Primary communication for two or more public safety agencies in 75% of the coverage area
- A common core interconnected infrastructure network, ideally with the same system ID and Wide Area Communication Network (WACN) ID
- There are nine systems recognized as a Regional System (out of approx. fifty-five)

Team Awareness Kit (TAK)

Team Awareness Kit is a suite of situational awareness tools that puts your teammates and resources on the same map. With TAK, your team can more efficiently communicate, collaborate with other agencies, and quickly navigate to a target.

<https://takmanager.dps.texas.gov/login>

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BRIDGE

Public Safety

Bridge4PS is a secure mobile and desktop communications and data sharing app designed specifically for first responders to communicate in real-time across teams, departments, agencies, and jurisdictions.

www.bridge4ps.com



BRIDGE

Public Safety

What is DPS doing to promote and enhance the usage of Bridge4PS?

- DPS is sponsoring two (2) Statewide Channels that will not count toward the 3-channel limit for basic subscribers
- DPS is sponsoring an Interoperability Channel for every County
- DPS is sponsoring Pro licenses for TxICC SEC Delegates and COG Planners
- DPS will sponsor Pro licenses for all Active State Credentialed COMU personnel
- More coming in 2027!

Strategic Advisory Groups



How can you help further interoperability in Texas?.....Join a SAG Today!

Broadband SAG

Encryption SAG

RoIP SAG

System of Systems SAG

TIFOG SAG

TSICP SAG

Broadband PTT SAG

Deployable Trunked System SAG

TAK SAG

Contact us at txswic@dps.texas.gov

Radio ID's and Encryption:



- SWIC office has assumed responsibility for coordinating the “5 Million” ID's for State and Federal partners
- SWIC office is responsible for coordination of CKR/KEY ID's for encryption
- Encryption working group formed and tasked with:
 - Developing a plan for future coordination
 - Developing a plan to migrate agencies to AES (Advanced Encryption Standard)

Radio ID's and Encryption:



- SWIC office is no longer coordinating new CKRs for ADP/ARC4 or DES
- Agencies requesting encryption keys that will be shared with outside agencies will be directed to an existing regional or federal shared key
- New CKR/KID's should be for internal agency use only
- Trunked Radio System managers should consider using a Federal shared key for System Level Patch Key and on Interoperability Channels until the encryption plan is finalized

Focus Group and Interoperability Level Surveys



Surveys typically open in February and close in April.

COGs hold Focus Group Meetings with all their First Responder agencies to complete both the Focus Group and Interoperability Level surveys.

What is a Focus Group Meeting?

The purpose of the meeting is for agencies within a region to get together and share successes and issues from the interoperable communications point of view

The Focus Group meeting should be attended by as many agencies as possible so that answers to the questions in the survey represent the region as a whole.

The annual meeting is a required COG activity in the SCIP

COGs that do not submit a survey may be identified in the Legislative report

Focus Group Survey

Asks questions about how well the region plans and works together

- Committee Meetings
- SOPs
- RICPs – Many are at or near 5 years old and need to be refreshed

Does the region participate in communications drills and exercises?

Opportunity to recognize regional successes and accomplishments

Focus Group Survey

Identify gaps that remain in the region to achieve 'Level 5' communications

- Why are these important?
 - Identify priorities in the Region's RICP
 - Justification for grant applications!

Assesses Cybersecurity threats to radio systems

Focus Group Survey

Submit **ONE** survey from each COG/RPC, Tribe and the Combined State Agencies

Where is the Focus Group Survey data used?

- Annual Report on Interoperable Communications to the Texas Legislature
- Determine new SCIP initiatives
- Texas SWIC Office markers and measures to DHS/ECD
- HSSP metrics for Texas Homeland Security Office
- Setting regional priorities for grant funding

2025 Focus Group Survey Results

Complete results can be reviewed in the 2026 Legislative Report

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/iod/interop/docs/interoprpt.pdf>

Governance:

90% of COGs reported they have an active Interop Communications Committee (last year: 84%)

91% of COGs reported they have met with regional decision-makers to promote interoperability (last year: 84%)

Planning and Procedures:

86% of Texas COGs participated in a public event displaying communications equipment. (last year: 88%)

32% of COGs and Tribes have or are in the process of updating their RICP within the last five years (last year: 68%)

2025 Focus Group Survey Results

Technology and Infrastructure:

68% of COGs reported over 90% of agencies are using P25 equipment
(last year: 60%)

27% of COGs reported between 50-90% of agencies are using P25 equipment
(last year: 36%)

59% of COGs reported over 90% of agencies have programmed to the TSICP
(last year 68%)

32% of COGs reported between 50-90% of agencies have programmed to the TSICP
(last year 20%)

2024 Focus Group Survey Results

Cybersecurity:

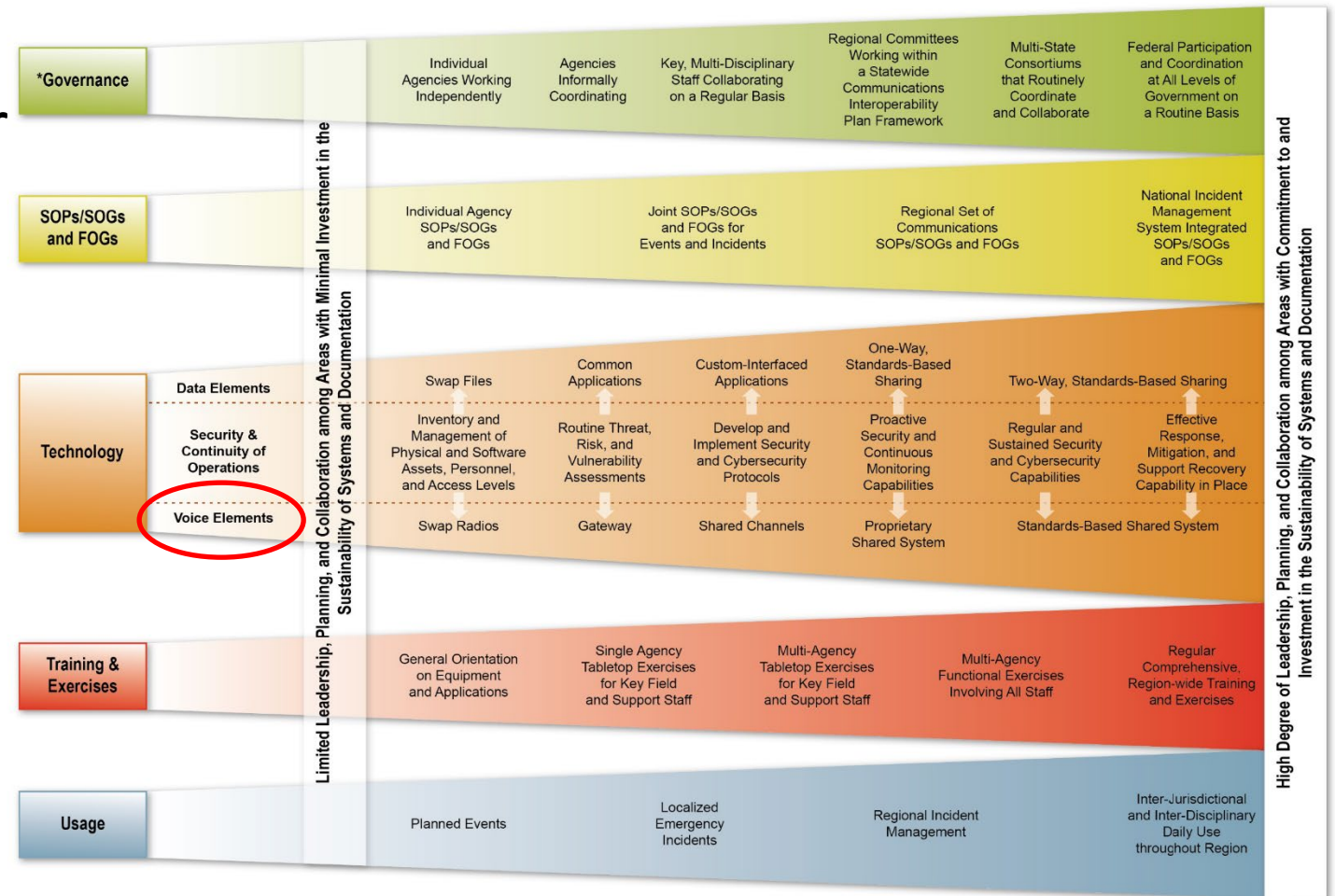
27% of COGs reported between 90-100% of agencies have conducted a cyber assessment

19% of COGs reported between 90-100% of agencies have developed a cyber incident action plan

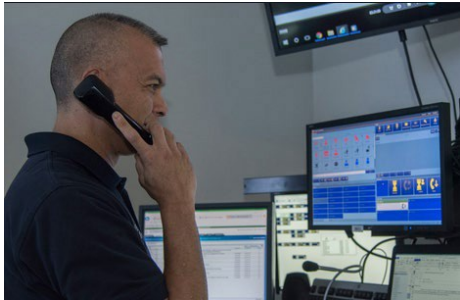
What is the Interoperability Level Survey?

Provides a way to quantify the level of voice interoperability for each of the 254 counties

Questions are based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum



Interoperability Level – Voice Capabilities



Level 2: Console Patches



Level 3: Share Channel Programming
(Most Common)



Level 4: **NON P25** Shared Radio System



Level 1: Swap Radios



Level 5: **P25** Shared Radio System

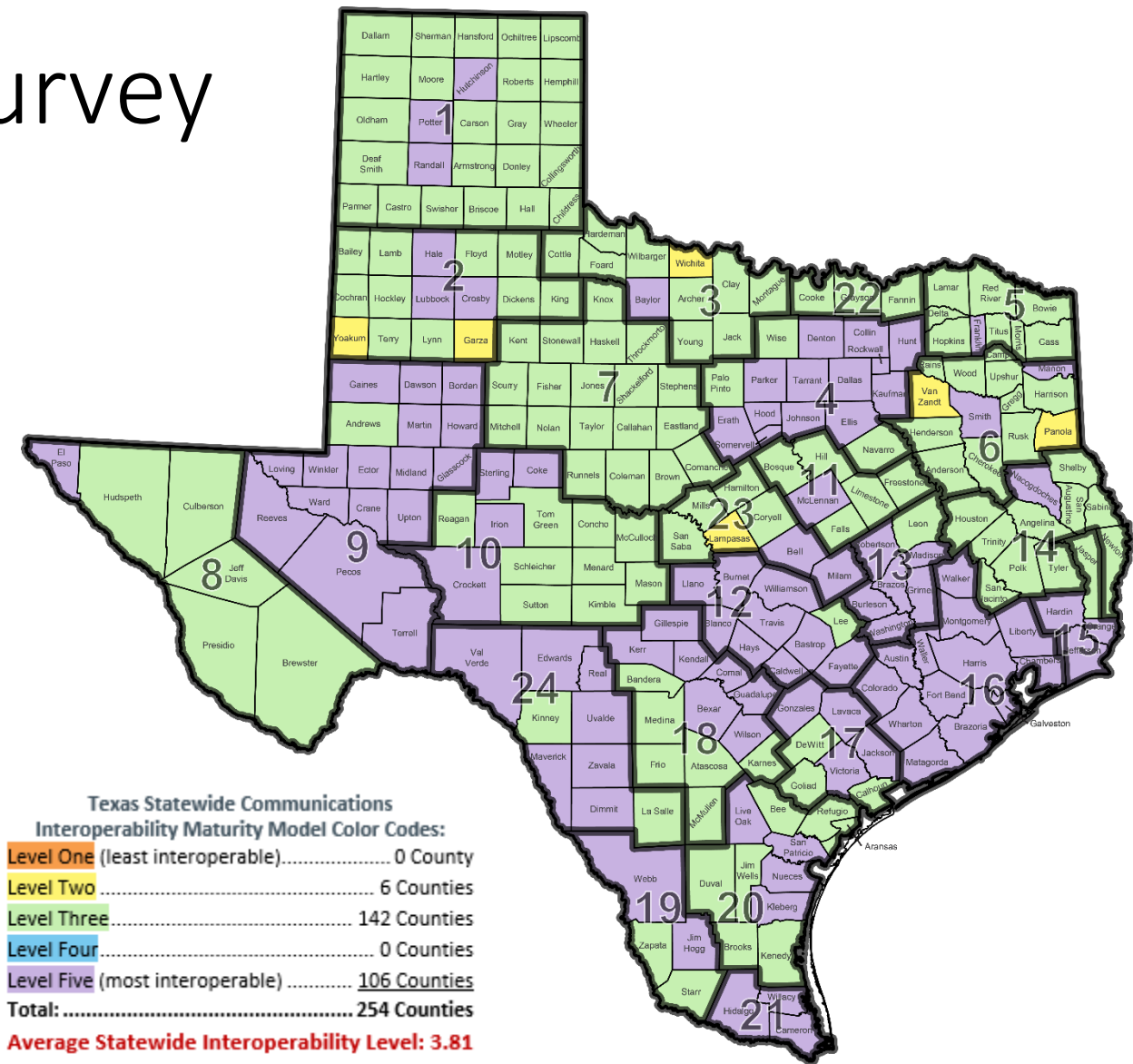
Interoperability Level Survey

Designate **ONE** person/agency within the county to complete the survey – needs to understand communications capabilities within the county

Submit **ONE** survey per county that reports status based on the county as a whole.

Counties that do not submit a new Interoperability Level will remain the same as last year

COGs will be asked to clarify if multiple reports are submitted for a county, or if reported levels vary significantly from previous reports.



Interoperability Level Survey

Where is the Interoperability Level Survey data used?

- The Voice Interoperability Level is used in the Legislative Report
2010 the state reported an interoperability level of 3.2
2025 the state reported an interoperability level of 3.81
(up from 3.74 in the 2024 report)
- Knowing a counties' current Interoperability Level and how a grant project might improve that level could be important in a grant application
- No counties reported Level 1 or 4 Interoperability in 2025



Public Safety Radio Basics 101

Date: October 2022
Version: 1.0



Courtesy City of Fort Worth Police Department



Courtesy Firefighter Gerald Finley, Port Neches Fire Department



Courtesy Clint Thetford, Lubbock County

Public Safety Radio Basics 101

- Link on MyTCOLE 3.0
<https://tcledds.tcole.texas.gov/mytcole/Login>
- 2886 Registration, 1896 Completions as of 8/24/26
- The course offers 4 hrs CE credit
- Link on Preparingtexas.org:
[T-RES110: Radio Statewide Interoperability](#)
- 806 Registrations, 416 Completions as of 8/24/26

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

TxICC Annual Conference
The Bevy Hotel Boerne
101 Herff Road
Boerne, Texas 78006

2026 TxICC Strategic Planning Conference and System Owners meeting



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