

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

2013 Homeland Security Grant Program State Initiatives

1. WyoLink Interoperability

WyoLink is a statewide Project-25 digital, trunked, VHF Hi-band (136-174 MHz) radio system utilizing 57 sites with four 800 MHz sites providing seamless interoperable communications across multiple frequency bands.

The goal of WyoLink coverage enhancement is to achieve interoperable public safety communications comparable with existing portable radio coverage and in areas of critical concern, identified through testing and cooperative efforts with local public safety providers, determined after statewide deployment in an area. This initiative will facilitate end user purchases of mobile and portable radios and radio frequency equipment.

2. Community Resilience

This initiative is intended to strengthen Wyoming's planning and preparedness capabilities, embracing a Whole Community approach to security and emergency management as well as strengthening prevention and protection capabilities. Three (3) principles represent the foundation for a Whole Community approach:

- Understand and meet the actual needs of the whole community
- Engage and empower all parts of the community
- Strengthen what works well in communities on a daily basis.

These concepts are outlined in FEMA publication FDOC 104-008-1, *A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action*.

Additional focus will be on:

- Local jurisdictions' ability to enhance first responder training and equipment programs for all-hazards response.
- Enhancement of relationships and partnerships with private sector entities to strengthen community preparedness
- Recognize, understand, communicate, plan and address risks so that the community can develop a set of actions to accomplish Mitigation and improve resilience

3. Regional Emergency Response Teams

Pursuant to WY State Statute 35-9-152 "Wyoming Emergency Response Act": Homeland Security Regional Emergency Response areas have been created. Eight (8) Regional Emergency Response Teams have been assigned in the state of Wyoming with the purpose of assembling appropriately trained personnel and specialized equipment necessary to respond to an incident or emergency involving hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or other natural or manmade disasters. This initiative will continue to equip and train these specialized teams.

4. Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Protection and Response

Wyoming's seven (7) local bomb squads work in concert with the eight (8) Regional Emergency Response teams to provide comprehensive coverage for the mitigation and prevention of terrorist incidents involving the use of CBRNE weapons of mass destruction. The bomb squads will train with local Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams to work together in terrorist situations that involve both explosive devices and active shooters. This initiative will continue to assist the rest of the first responder community with aligning the detection and mitigation efforts in IED situations as well as equipping the bomb teams and local first responders.

5. Information Sharing Across Critical Infrastructure Sectors

The goal of this initiative is to facilitate the sharing and distribution of relevant, actionable, timely classified & un-classified information that is updated frequently for the consumers who need it. This includes steps taken to mitigate the overall risk to critical infrastructure assets, systems, networks, functions or their interconnecting links. This initiative will also focus on actions to deter the threat, mitigate vulnerabilities, or minimize consequences associated with a natural or manmade disaster or terrorist attack.

Partnering with federal, state and local resources, WOHS will provide training to state, regional and local emergency managers' and first responders with the input and utilization of the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) for critical infrastructure management. This information, collected and input at the local level will assist in making high-quality decisions about needed resources when responding to emergencies.

Wyoming's geospatial initiative focuses on the regionalization of resources and the ability to easily and effectively deploy those resources for response. Use geospatial technologies to collect information on deployable assets to be included in a statewide web-based enterprise database engine. This web-based geospatial product will assist state and local emergency managers and Regional Emergency Response Teams with planning, training and exercising the core capabilities within the five mission areas.

6. School Safety and Security

December 14, 2012, Matthew Mead, Governor of Wyoming, directed the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to establish the Governor's School Safety and Security Task Force and on January 18, 2012 this multi-discipline group of professionals representing educators, school administrators, district superintendants, local police and fire personnel, military intelligence/security, behavioral health specialists, and staff from the Wyoming Department of Education and School Facilities Department, came together in an inaugural meeting. Three initial findings were: 1). Wyoming lacks a consistent, overarching policy for school safety and security. 2). Without consistent policies, levels of school security and crisis management can vary significantly from one district to the next. 3). Ongoing crisis training is needed to help districts improve coordination with local law enforcement and prevention efforts will involve ongoing professional development for school and law enforcement personnel to ensure developing skills necessary to identify behaviors preceding a violent event.

7. Cyber Terrorism

The goal of this initiative is to protect against damage, the unauthorized use of, and/or the exploitation of (and, if needed, the restoration of) electronic communications systems and services (and the information contained therein). Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services, a new state agency, was created in 2012 to address the growing technology as it applies to state government. There are continuing efforts in identifying new technologies to address emerging threats.

8. Mass Casualty – Victim Care

Through the development of Wyoming's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR) over the past two years, the state recognizes there are gaps in our ability to respond to a Mass Casualty Event. Wyoming has regional areas where significant seasonal tourist influx impacts population numbers and heavily-attended, large annual events elevate our risk in a manmade or natural Mass Casualty Event.

Wyoming's THIRA and SPR identifies a need to further develop and strengthen Mass Casualty Management Services, including body recovery and victim identification, working with state and local authorities to provide temporary mortuary solutions, sharing information with mass care services for the purpose of reunifying family members and caregivers with missing persons/remains, and providing counseling to the bereaved.

Planning, training and coordination with coroners & EMS is needed to improve coordination with state and local law enforcement, emergency management professionals and health professionals. Capacity enhancement efforts will involve ongoing professional development of law enforcement, emergency management and health personnel to ensure necessary skills are developed and enhanced. Additionally, reunification procedures and identification methods require enhancement.