ISICSB Newsletter

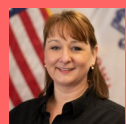## November / December 2024

Note From the SWIC

As winter weather blusters in and we enter the heart of the holiday season, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank each of you for your unwavering dedication and service to our communities. Your work as first responders, telecommunicators, and public safety professionals is the bedrock of safety and security for Iowa's citizens, and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

This time of year brings unique challenges: treacherous road conditions, increased demands for emergency services, and the profound responsibility of keeping our loved ones safe during celebrations and gatherings. In these moments, effective communication becomes not just a tool, but a lifeline. The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System exists to ensure that, no matter the weather or the circumstances, you have the reliable interoperable communications you need to coordinate and save lives.

Your ability to work together across agencies and jurisdictions reflects the very best of what public safety represents: teamwork, resilience, and the courage to face the unknown. Whether it is a snowstorm affecting rural roads, a fire during the coldest days of winter, or a medical emergency amid holiday festivities, the ISICS platform stands ready to support your efforts with dependable technology and connectivity.

As you prepare for the busy weeks ahead, please know that we are here to support you and assist you with ISICS, additional training, or resources to enhance your operations. Together, we will continue building a system that ensures the safety of every Iowan, including those of you who dedicate your lives to this critical work.

On behalf of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB), I wish you and your families a safe and peaceful holiday season. May you find moments of joy and rest, knowing that your contributions make a profound difference every day.

Respectfully,

Haley Nichols, SWIC

ISICS System Administrator Reports

October 2024
Radios = 40,412 (up 571 from September 2024)
Talkgroups = 3,424 (up 13 from September 2024)
Push-to-Talks = 3,072,522 (up 129,262 from September 2024)

November 2024
Radios = 41,280 (up 868 from October 2024)
Talkgroups = 3,424 (no change since October 2024)
Push-to-Talks = 2,758,022 (down 314,500 from October 2024)

Who's on FirstNet?

"Who's on FirstNet" is a peer-reported platform for public safety professionals. Discover which agencies are using the platform and access contact information to ask questions directly from those with firsthand experience. If your public safety agency is using FirstNet, please share how you are utilizing it at Who's on FirstNet. If you're considering using FirstNet or have questions, this is a great way to learn from others' experiences and pick up some tips and tricks. Visit Who's on FirstNet to sign up or review the information. **www.whosonfirstnet.com/**

DPS Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Interop Communications Engineer, Dave Brittain, on being selected the DPS Employee of the Month for December.

Dave began his DPS career in 2008 when he joined the Interoperability Bureau as a Communications Engineer. Since then, Dave has contributed to the Interoperability Bureau by managing talkgroup and encryption development. He has spent significant time and effort ensuring radio IDs can be used on the statewide platform and assisting all agencies with radio ID and talkgroup fleet mapping.

Dave was also largely responsible for creating a unified talkgroup that allowed DNE, DOI, ISP, drug task forces, narcotics units, ATF, FBI, DEA, US Marshals Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and US Postal Inspection Services to communicate seamlessly with one another on their department-issued radios anywhere in Iowa. The Task Force Zone is available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year on ISICS. This capability never existed prior to Dave's efforts and represents an innovation that was not only decades in the making but has revolutionized communication among those conducting drug investigations.

Thank you, Dave, for all your expertise and efforts that benefit all public safety.

Happy Holidays

May the magic of the holidays bring you peace, love, and happiness

> *"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, and others make it happen."*
>
> *~ Michael Jordan*

New COMU Credentials

During the November 12, 2024, ISICSB Meeting, SWIC Haley Nichols presented COMU credentialing certificates to the following individuals for their successful completion of and fulfilling all requirements necessary to be credentialed as Communications Unit Technicians (COMTs) and Incident Tactical Dispatchers (INTDs). Congratulations to both!

Dean Pollpeter

Gabriel Starling

During the December 12, 2024, ISICSB Meeting, ISICSB Vice-Chair Patrick Updike presented COMU credentialing certificates to the following individuals for their successful completion of and fulfilling all requirements necessary to be credentialed as Incident Tactical Dispatchers (INTDs). Congratulations to both!

Stephanie Norris

Alexis Sonich

FirstNet Contacts

Bart Blank
AT&T FirstNet Solutions
AT&T Mobility Services
m: 563.508.8657
bb6003@att.com

Tom Lampe
FirstNet Authority
Senior Public Safety Advisor
m: 240.937.9255
Thomas.Lampe@Firstnet.gov

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click HERE

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click HERE

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Haley Nichols @ nichols@dps.state.ia.us

View Happenings HERE

ISICSB Contacts

Michele Bischof
ISICSB Chair
Superintendent of Technical Services
Des Moines Fire Department
mlbischof@dmgov.org

Haley Nichols
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)
Iowa Department of Public Safety / ISICSB
Nichols@dps.state.ia.us

ISICS NOC Contact Information
Phone: 515-278-5613
isicsnoc@dps.state.ia.us

Impressive, Innovative, Influential Iowa—APCO Webinar

Flooding in Iowa is nothing new. With every storm comes new challenges, especially when it comes to communications. The State of Iowa has continued to upgrade its emergency communication infrastructure by transitioning to a digital framework and leveraging public safety broadband. Learn how the town of Spencer came up with innovative solutions during a recent flood utilizing deployables to keep their ECC functioning and how their solution is influencing the way FirstNet is being used.

Speakers: Tom Lampe, the FirstNet Authority regional lead; Blake DeRouchey, State of Iowa 9-1-1 Program Manager; Luke Erpelding, Regional Communications Manager, Iowa Department of Public Safety; Patrick Kazeze, Director of Network and Engineering, Iowa Communications Network (ICN); and Renee Gordon, Director; City of Alexandria (VA.) Department of Emergency & Customer Communications and Vice Chair, FirstNet Authority Board

Click HERE to view a recording of the webinar.

FirstNet Resources

⇒ **FirstNet Brings Coverage to Meskwaki Nation - Podcast** - *New*
⇒ **What's New in Wireless** - *New*
⇒ **FirstNet FAQs**
⇒ **FirstNet Newsletters**
⇒ **FirstNet Apps**
⇒ **FirstNet Reports**
⇒ **FirstNet Podcasts**
⇒ **FirstNet Roadmap**