

Dear OEC Stakeholder,

I am pleased to announce that the [National Emergency Communications Plan \(NECP\)](#) recently celebrated its second anniversary. Since it was published in July 2008, the Nation's first strategic plan for emergency communications has made quite a mark in the community. For example, we have seen its impact in the following areas:

- Statewide Planning: Statewide Interoperability Coordinators now lead interoperability efforts in nearly every State and territory.
- Targeted Technical Assistance: More than 2,000 trained Communications Unit Leaders have been trained and are now leading communications at some of the Nation's largest disaster scenes, including the Gulf oil spill and the floods in Tennessee.
- Intergovernmental Coordination: OEC is partnering with nationwide stakeholders from all disciplines and levels of government to increase core capabilities and share repeatable best models that result in cost savings across the Nation.

Looking to the future, the NECP will continue to play a major role in the emergency response community. This year, the [Office of Emergency Communications \(OEC\)](#) is working with 60 High Risk Urban Areas as identified by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to demonstrate Goal 1 of the NECP. These demonstrations evaluate response-level emergency communications during planned events in the urban areas. In 2011, OEC will coordinate with States and localities to achieve [NECP Goal 2](#). Goal 2 information will support:

- National policy and grant funding programs.
- Strengthening Federal programs, such as OEC's Technical Assistance Program, which provides onsite instruction and assistance with the planning, governance, operational, and technical aspects of developing and implementing emergency communications initiatives.
- The next version of the NECP, which will build on the existing NECP to establish a framework for both mission critical voice communications and emerging technologies, such as broadband.

To learn more about the NECP update, please view our recent [video](#) and [podcast](#) and listen to stakeholders discuss changes to the NECP and how they affect the emergency response community. We welcome your feedback on these new methods of sharing information on emergency communications.

With your ongoing support, we will continue to make the NECP a relevant document for years to come. Our collective efforts and partnerships are making a difference that are protecting lives and keeping our Nation safe.

On behalf of OEC, I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

With best wishes for continued success,



Chris Essid
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Department of Homeland Security