

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
 DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 Hans Kallam, Director



Bill Ritter, Jr.
 Governor

Susan Kirkpatrick
 Executive Director

February 1, 2008

Honorable Representative Kerr and Members of the Legislative Audit Committee
 200 East 14th Avenue
 Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Honorable Representative Kerr and Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

This letter provides a brief status report by the Department of Local Affairs through its Division of Emergency Management (DEM) on the implementation of Recommendation #1 of the Public Safety Radio Communications Performance Audit October, 2007. DEM has made significant progress toward implementation of Recommendation #1 and is on track for completing implementation by June 2008. Actions taken or in progress fall into the following categories:

1) Working Group: DEM formed a working group with subject matter experts from the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA), DEM, and Colorado State Patrol. The working group researched mechanisms for collecting reliable and sufficient State communications data. Part of this research involved contact with the Department of Homeland Security's Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). ICTAP recommended the use of free federal software called the Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool (CASM). CASM is a secure web-based software that collects, displays and assesses public safety communications equipment and interoperability methods. The software performs interoperability and capability assessments. The working group agreed that CASM, if populated with Colorado data, would show the systematic interoperable links and needs.

2) CASM Survey: DPA developed a one page survey which will be provided to municipalities with first responders (Attachment 1). DEM is researching a means to automate the survey verses using a mail or telephonic method. In parallel, the Governor's Office of Information Technology is hiring an employee to serve as the State's Interoperability Communications Coordinator (ICC). DEM will distribute the survey not later than March 31st, 2008 with a requested return date of April 30th, 2008.

3) CASM Assessment: CASM is currently populated with approximately half of the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative's data and all of the Colorado State government's communications information. Other municipalities will begin providing their completed surveys to the ICC in April 2008. The ICC will enter the survey data into CASM and begin the assessment process.

The working group believes that the CASM survey and assessment process will collect reliable and sufficient data on the State's communications capabilities and needs, and help the ICC identify the resources required to achieve statewide interoperability. We look forward to meeting with the Legislative Audit Committee on February 19th, 2008 to discuss this report further. If you have any questions before our February meeting, please refer them to me at 720-852-6611 or hans.kallam@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Hans Kallam
 Director of the Division of Emergency Management

CC: Michelle Colin, Legislative Audit Manager
 Susan E. Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of Department of Local Affairs

Public Safety Interoperability Survey

Public Safety Interoperability Survey									
Agency Name									
Street or mailing address									
City									
State									
Zip									
County									
Contact Name									
Contact Phone									
Contact Email									
Agency Type		Law	Fire	EMS	Public	EMS/Private	Other		
Primary Radio System		VHF (150)	UHF (450)	DTRS (800)	EDACS (800)	OTHER	NA		
Local interoperability system									
Regional interoperability system									
State interoperability system									
Federal interoperability system									
Dispatch Location (city)									
Dispatch Type		Self	Combined City	Combined County	Combined Regional	CSP	Other		
If not on DTRS do you plan to migrate?		Yes	No						
If yes, when (estimated start date)		Estimated migration completion date							