



Homeland Security

The Office of Emergency Communications National Emergency Communications Plan

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Office of Emergency Communications
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Agenda

- **Emergency Communications Challenges**
- **OEC Background**
- **National Emergency Communications Plan**
- **Vision for the Future**



Defining the Issue: Emergency Communications

- ***Emergency communications*** is the ability of emergency responders to exchange information via data, voice, and video as authorized to complete their mission
- Effective emergency communications is needed to
 - Improve the ability of emergency responders to save lives and property
 - Facilitate rapid and efficient interaction among all public safety organizations
 - Provide immediate and coordinated assistance in day-to-day missions, task force operations, and mass-casualty incidents
- Events such as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, not only raised awareness of emergency communications, but have also served as a catalyst for action at all levels of government





Past Challenges

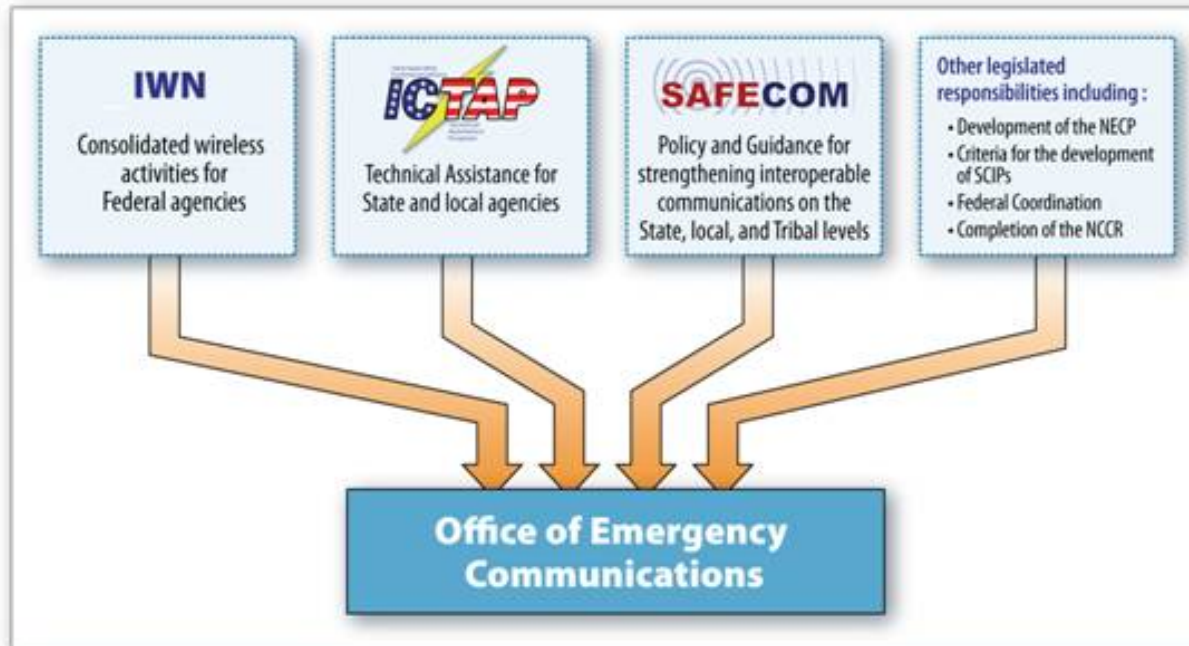
- **Key programs for improving Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency communications were mostly dispersed across the Federal Government**
- **No national strategy existed to set common goals, objectives, and timetables for improving interoperable communications**
- **Lack of coordination among Federal emergency communications efforts, creating overlaps**
- **Few States had governance structures and strategic plans to guide their emergency communications efforts**
- **Technology was often considered the “silver bullet” for achieving interoperability**



OEC Overview

Congress established OEC as part of DHS' National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) on April 1, 2007. OEC coordinates emergency communications activities at the Federal, State, and local levels and with private sector.

The Formation of the Office of Emergency Communications





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Our Mission

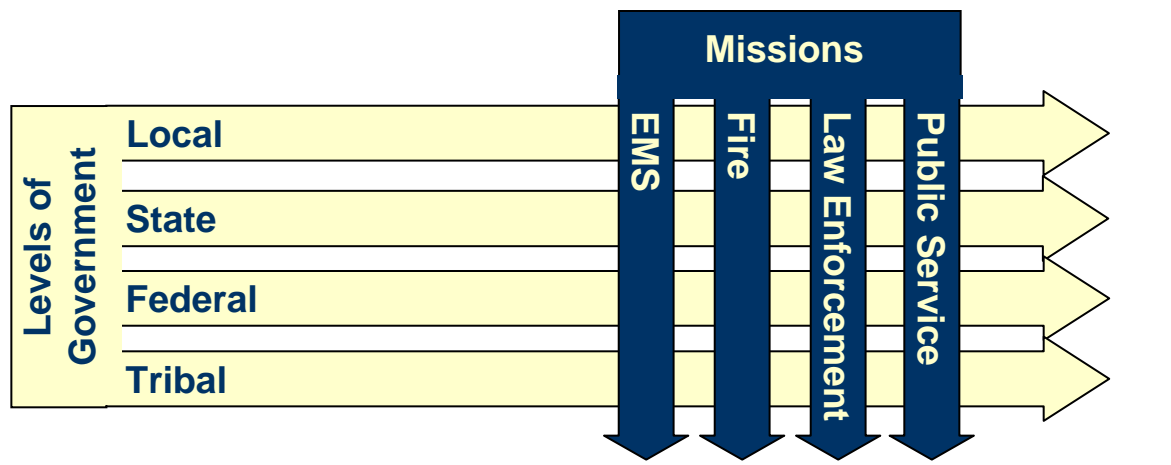
OEC supports and promotes the ability of emergency responders and government officials to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters, and works to ensure, accelerate, and attain interoperable and operable emergency communications nationwide.





Key Stakeholders

“Emergency Communications: Connecting diverse stakeholders across multiple levels of government.”



Emergency communications directly impacts the emergency response community, which consists of 2,800,000 public safety officials including—

- 1,140,900 Firefighters
- 840,000 EMS Personnel
- 836,000 Law Enforcement Officers

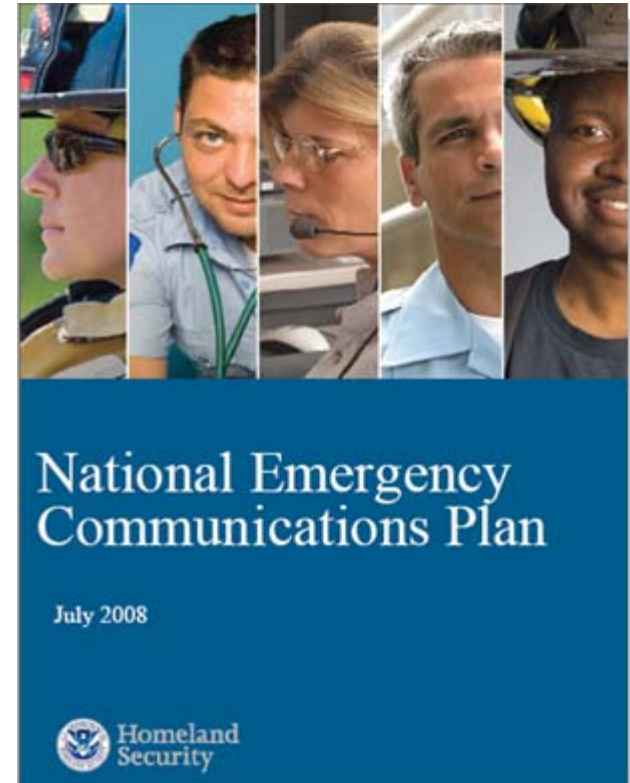
- 30,635 Fire Departments
- 6,210 EMS Departments
- 27,496 Law Enforcement Agencies

Emergency communications also affects the public service arena, which includes legislative officials, utilities agencies, and chief information officers.



The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)

- OEC developed the NECP to address emergency communications challenges and gaps across all levels of government
- The NECP is a strategic plan to improve interoperability, operability, and continuity of communications for Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency responders
- **NECP Implementation is driving:**
 - Improved alignment of DHS and State/local planning against NECP goals and objectives
 - Federal and regional coordination and reporting of progress in improving emergency communications:
 - Annual Federal Strategic Assessments (Emergency Communications Preparedness Center [ECPC])
 - Regional assessments (Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups [RECCWG])



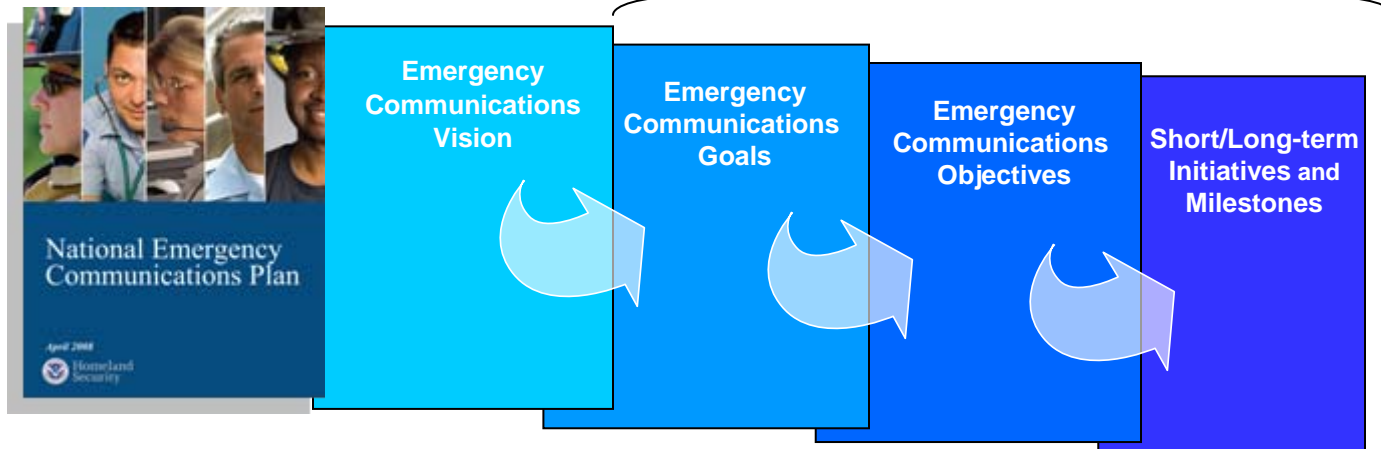


NECP Policy and Planning Inputs

Key Emergency Communication Policy and Planning Inputs:

- All 56 Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans
- DHS assessments/surveys: National Communications Capabilities Report, 2006 SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey
- SAFECOM Executive Committee/Emergency Response Council's Guiding Principles
- NRP/NRF – *Communications and Information Management*
- Target Capabilities List – *Activities, Tasks, Metrics*
- Industry Reports – National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee Report on Interoperability, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' White Papers, National Governors Association Survey
- National After-Action Reports – 9/11 Commission, Hurricane Katrina Reports
- Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Scorecard Summary Report
- FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications
- National Infrastructure Protection Plan – Communications SSP, Emergency Services SSP

NECP Framework:





ECPC Development: Federal Coordination

Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC)

- Served as the primary mechanism for coordinating Federal input and feedback on the NECP
- Formed the NECP Work Group to develop Federal input for the Plan – participants included DHS components, as well as FCC, DOD, DOJ, DOI, and others
- Serves as a focal point for interagency coordination on interoperability programs and initiatives – including grants and technical assistance
- Establishing a clearinghouse for emergency communications information

ECPC Charter Members

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Treasury
- Federal Communications Commission
- General Services Administration



NECP Development: State/Local/Tribal and Private Sector Coordination

- **SAFECOM Executive Committee/Emergency Response Council (EC/ERC)**
 - The EC/ERC was the primary mechanism for coordinating State and local input and feedback
 - Participants included police, fire, EMS, and public safety communication officials from around the Nation

- **Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC)**
 - OEC worked with the coordinating councils for the Communications, Information Technology, Emergency Services, and State/territorial/ local/tribal government sectors

- **The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)**
 - OEC worked with leadership from the NSTAC Emergency Communications and Interoperability Task Force to address the NSTAC's recommendations to the President



NECP Goals and Objectives

NECP Objectives:

- Formal Governance Structures
- Coordinated Federal Activities
- Common Planning and Operational Protocols
- Standards/Emerging Technologies
- Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities
- System Life-Cycle Planning
- Disaster Communications Capabilities

NECP Goal 1

By 2010, 90 percent of all high risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. (UASIs as of July 31, 2008)

NECP Goal 2

By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

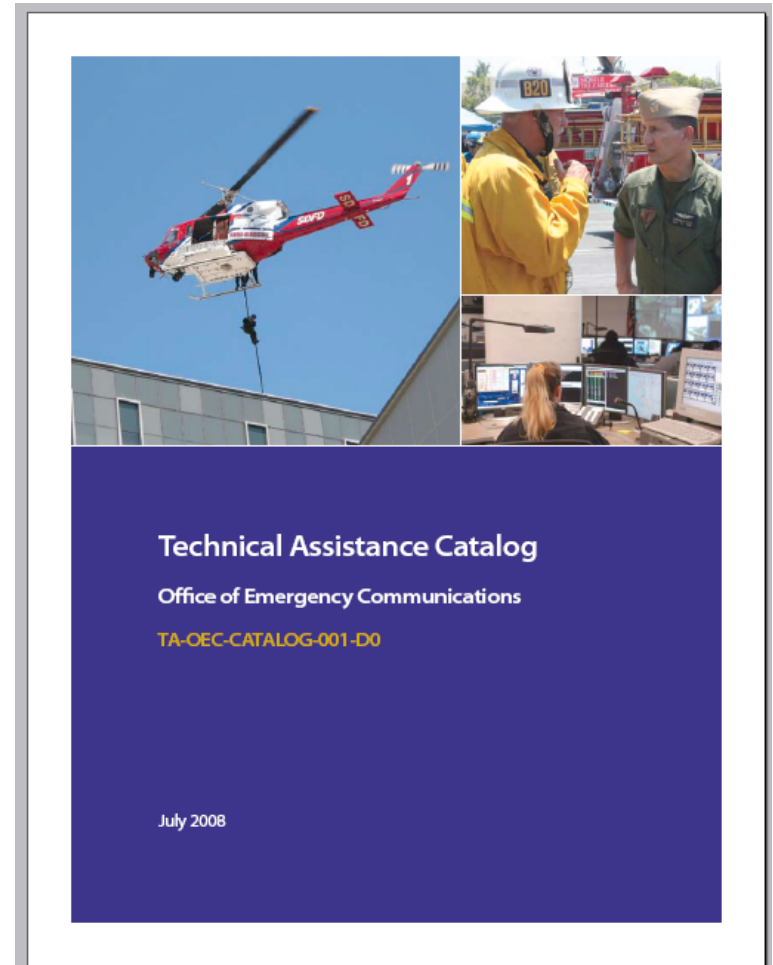
NECP Goal 3

By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios within three hours.



NECP Implementation: Technical Assistance

- OEC provides direct assistance to State, local, and tribal agencies to improve emergency communications capabilities across key areas, including:
 - Governance and Standard Operating Procedure Support
 - Communications Unit Training and Support (COML)
 - Communications Operations Support
 - Communications Systems Engineering Support
 - Tactical Communications Enhancement Support
 - Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Support

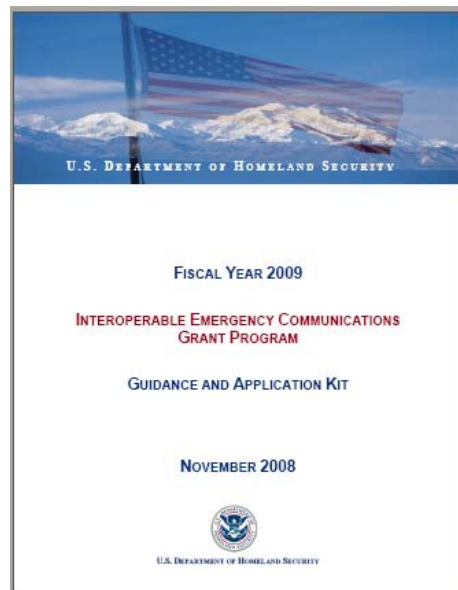




Emergency Communications Grants

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP)

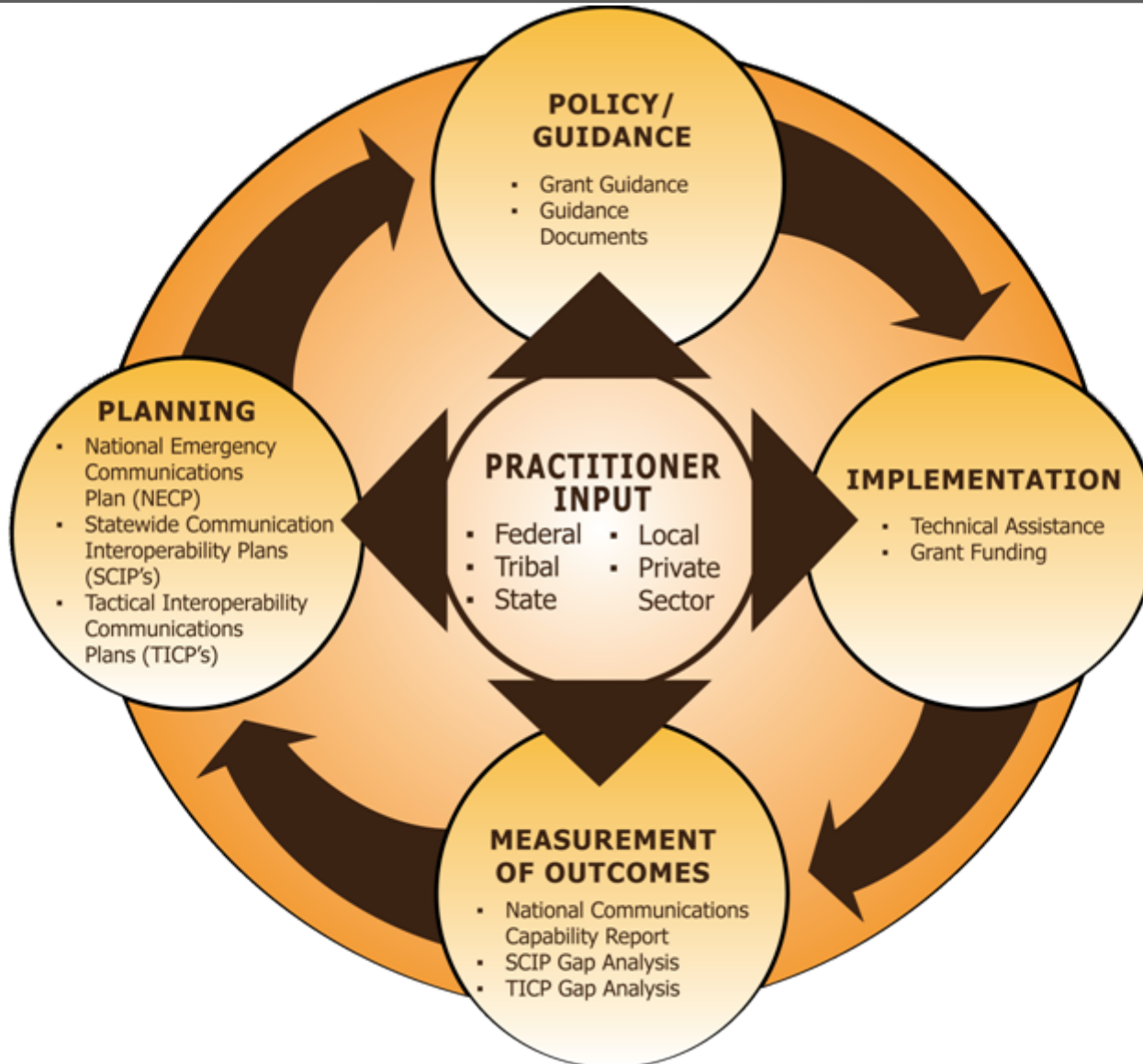
- IECGP grants are for States and territories to “carry out initiatives to improve local, tribal, statewide, regional, national and, where appropriate, international interoperable emergency communications”
- Authorizes up to \$1.6 billion from Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 – 2012
- For FY2009, IECGP funds will drive action in governance, training and exercise, and standard operating procedures consistent with the NECP



\$50 million appropriated in FY 2009



OEC Focuses on Partnerships





In Summary

- OEC led the development of the first measurable national plan to improve emergency communications
- OEC built partnerships across the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels of government and within the private sector to develop and implement the NECP
- Resources and assistance are being prioritized to address the most critical interoperability gaps
- Technical assistance, policy, grants, and other services are now coordinated under one office to better serve the emergency response community as the Nation implements the NECP





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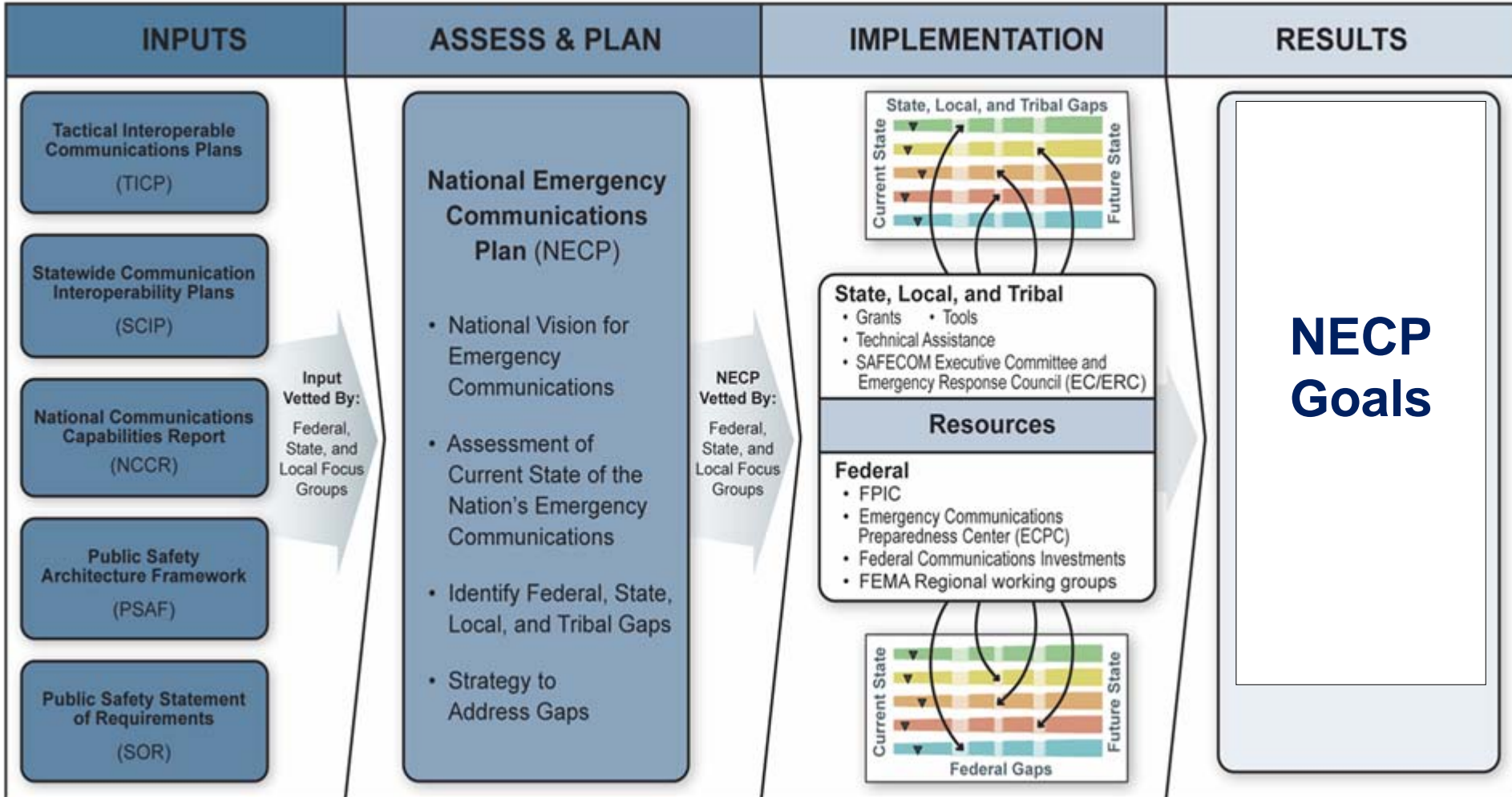


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Backup slide

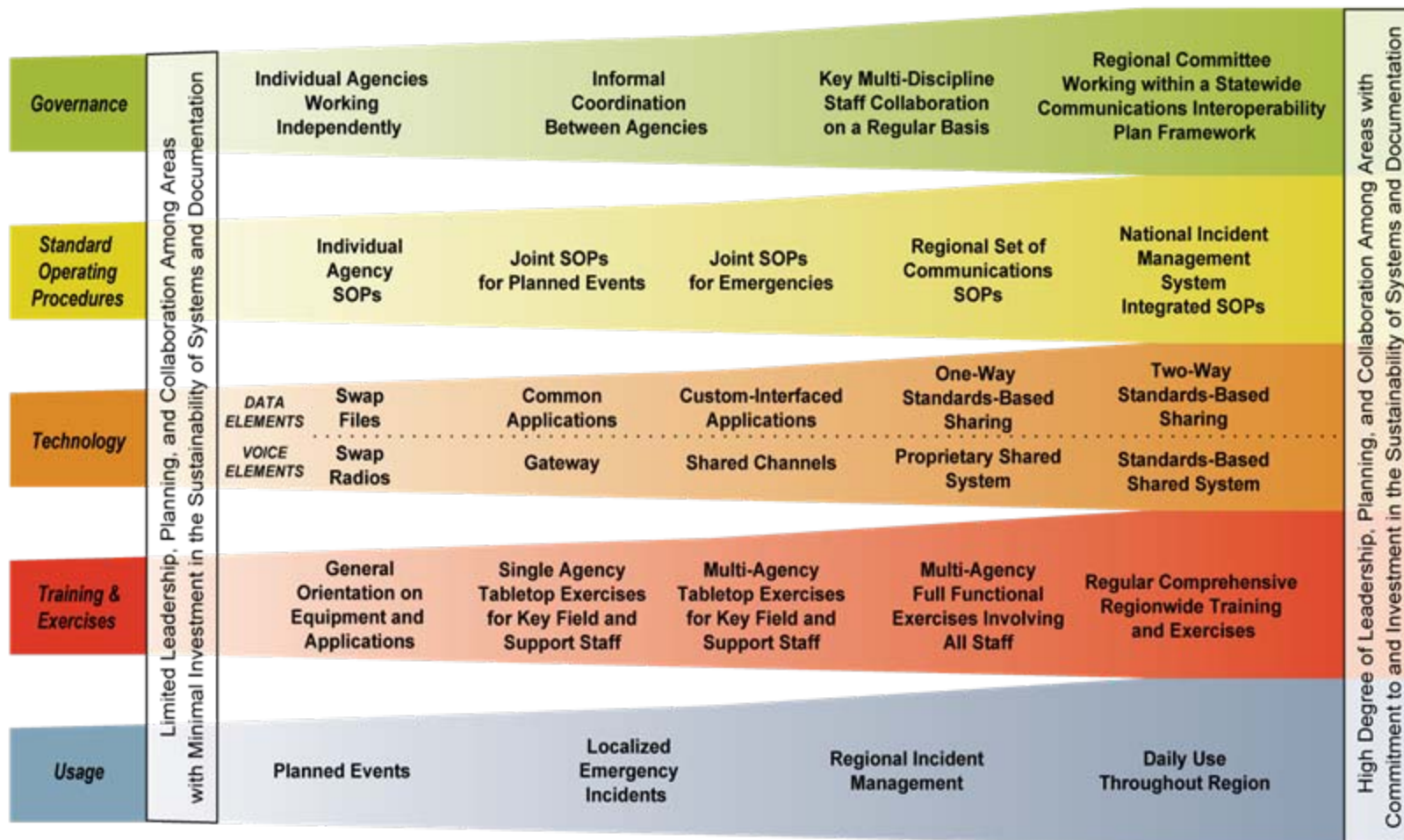


How it All Fits Together



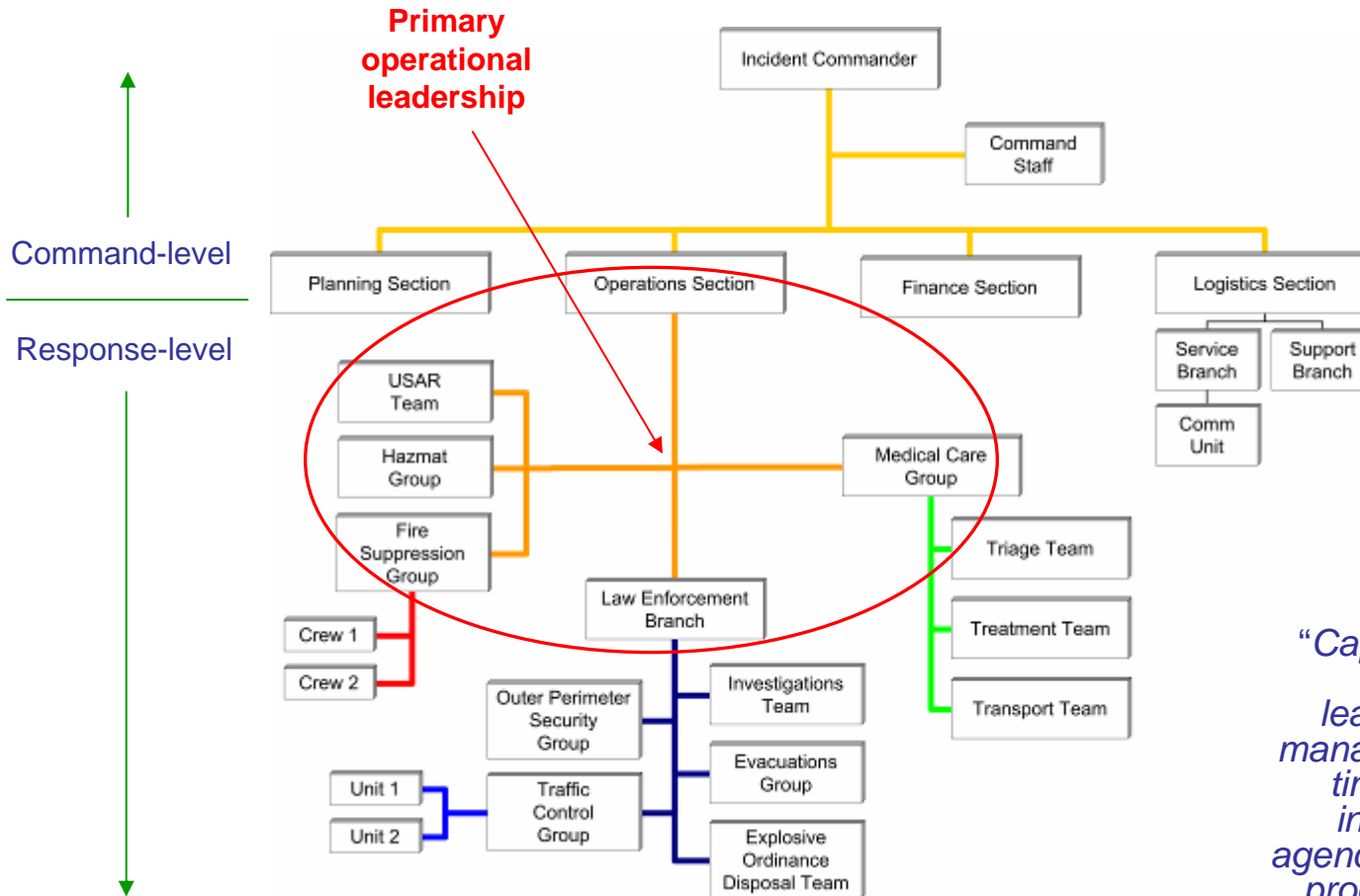


SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum





NECP Goals: Response-Level Communications



NECP Definition

“Capacity of individuals with primary operational leadership responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communications impediments”