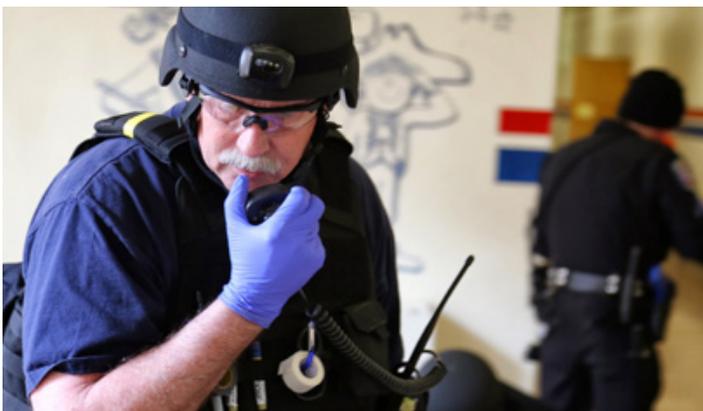




Integrating Emergency Response Communications



What is Interoperability?

Interoperability means computer and communication systems have the ability to connect and interact with one another readily and with reciprocity. In the context of emergency response communications, interoperability means that **911 Call Receivers, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Systems (EMS), and Fire** all operate within a **single organization**—streamlining the process and decreasing the response time of emergency dispatches.

Today's System

Since 2004, emergency dispatch services have been delivered from the **Combined Communications Building**, but each dispatch service area operates under and reports to separate organizations. Today's system delivers services well within the confines of the current structure. With an integrated model, opportunity exists to achieve **faster response times** for the benefit of the public when they need it most.

Saving Lives. Faster.

Integrating our region's emergency dispatch response communications allows services to be dispatched an estimated time savings for EMS and Fire response of **90 seconds faster** than the current system. This benefit alone justifies the adoption of an interoperable model. When combined with additional organizational efficiencies, the adoption of an interoperable model is even more essential and necessary.

- *Continual and coordinated improvements in levels of service*
- *More operational capacity through more efficient usage of tax dollars*
- *Leveraged acquisition of the latest technology to further enhance services*
- *Improved coordination with emergency management and disaster preparedness, response and recovery*

The Journey Towards Interoperability

1998

Spokane County fire districts consolidated their communication systems into one: The Combined Communications Center.

2004

The Combined Communications Building was built with future interoperability in mind.

2008

The 1/10th Ballot Measure was passed to build an interoperable radio system, reinstate Crime Check non-emergency police report taking and funds for other emergency response communications technology enhancements including citizen notification and computer aided dispatch replacements.

April 2017

83% of Spokane County voters passed Proposition 1: 1/10th of 1% Sales Tax Renewal providing financial sustainability for improvements including intergrated response through 2028.

Spring 2018

Creation of a new Public Development Authority (PDA) for integrated emergency response communications.

Early 2019

Emergency Service Communications in the Spokane Region will integrate to operate within a single organization to maximize current operations and prepare for future technology.



The estimated time an interoperable model will save with fire and medical dispatch compared to our current system.



85% of non-law enforcement calls are medical-related. Think about how much difference 90 seconds can make in the case of a stroke or heart attack

Delivering on Prop 1

Integrating our region's emergency response communications is part of fulfilling the promise of Spokane County's Proposition 1 which **received 83% approval from voters** in April 2017. Prop 1, 1/10th renewal promised **faster response in crisis** and pledged to **"integrate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)** between Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS.

Positioned for the future

Integration is not only a step needed to keep our services up to date, it is **crucial in positioning Spokane** to utilize fast-approaching technologies. Our emergency service response must **become integrated to utilize** these coming technologies.

