



# Colorado Interoperability Training

## Welcome



A snow storm paralyzes local streets, heavy equipment is needed at the scene of a collapsed building, interstate highway access needs to be restricted, and public safety local government units respond to protect the lives and property of America's citizens. First responders need to be prepared for emergencies. Knowing that they can communicate with one another as an incident unfolds is the first critical tool.

Public safety interoperability is not just an issue for disasters and major events. Our local government first responders need to understand when and how to communicate with other agencies and systems in real time. They must also understand how to operate their

mobile, portable and console radios which include advanced features and may include complex functions.

To address this problem, the Colorado Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) in cooperation with the 9 All Hazards Regions used Federal grant funding to create free, interoperable communications training tools that are available to your agency.

Everyone in your agency will benefit from this free training, which may be customized to meet the unique needs of your agency and your personnel. Training programs are stored for online use by your employees as well as for regular classroom-based instruction.

## Agency Directed Training



A standardized workbook has been created that will allow each agency to document the exact type of mobile and portable radios that they use including basic operating instructions for each unit. Images of each type of radio may be easily inserted from a provided picture gallery. The workbook will document which channels and talkgroups are in the radios and which interoperability systems are available. You can also include specific agency procedures, making it an even more valuable reference. It is envisioned that every employee who carries a radio would receive one of these workbooks, which may be downloaded from a secure web site at no cost. A PowerPoint presentation has also been created for use by agencies who wish to teach this information in a classroom setting.

## Web Based Training



A multi-hour block of free, web based training has been created which will allow agency personnel to take the classes at their convenience and on their own schedule. There are three modules of training available. "Radio 101" provides an overview of how voice radio systems work, "Interoperability Basics" describes the principals of how we communicate between differing systems, and "Colorado Interoperability" gives the student an overview of radio systems and technologies in use around the state.

- Employees can take the three courses at their convenience via the web, with the ability to start and stop, and restart later.
- A DVD version is available for agencies that do not have Internet access. DVD versions can also be used to teach the material in a classroom setting.

## A SUCCESS STORY

### Classroom Training

A multi-hour classroom based training program on communications interoperability has been created and can be customized by each agency. The free course includes a review of radio interoperability and features scenario based learning exercises. All training materials are available online for easy downloading. They include the PowerPoint presentation, Instructor Guide, Student Workbook, Course Examination, and Answer Keys. The material is designed for all first responders, for telecommunications and dispatch personnel, as well as for incident commanders and incident management team personnel.

### Internet Resources

Two powerful web sites are used to support all training.

**National Interoperability Information Exchange** at [www.NIIX.org](http://www.NIIX.org). A secure website available only to verified government employees. All training materials and special resources are available for easy downloading by your agency.



**Colorado Train Online Learning Management System** at [www.Co.Train.org](http://www.Co.Train.org). The designated statewide online training system; users may access all web-based training from this site.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator: [swic@state.co.us](mailto:swic@state.co.us)

One Public Works department incorporated interoperability drills into their existing quarterly safety meetings. A review of portable and mobile radio operations is conducted so that all channels and talkgroups are reviewed over the course of a year.



### Why This Is Important To You!

Your personnel must understand how to use their radio in an emergency. We spend hours ensuring that our personnel can operate motor vehicles safely and that they receive various work-related training information. Yet, most agencies do not provide formal training on the use of their agency-provided radio equipment.

These training resources are available to your agency at no cost and can be easily customized to meet your unique needs.

We encourage you to incorporate this training into your agency's regular training program, both for newly hired employees and as a part of your ongoing in-service training.

*The more information your personnel have, the safer they will be out on the street.*

