Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project (IDIP)
Radio over Internet Protocol
March 1, 2016

Problem Statement

Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) enables one dispatch center to "transfer" their radio system to another dispatch center anywhere in the nation. RoIP software and network routing links are being installed without input from the interagency dispatch offices or the Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) Board.

Key Points

- The RoIP upgrade for the dispatch system is equivalent to the1980s change from the Teletype Machine communication system to the modern day computer information communication system.
- RoIP gives the dispatcher the ability to reroute select radio traffic channels during periods of high activity or office closures (after hours) to a non-impacted office. This increases safety for non-fire personnel including check-in / out.
- RoIP will facilitate the Continuity of Operations (COOP), as defined in the National Security Presidential Directive-51/Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20) and the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan (NCPIP), to ensure that Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue by transferring radio traffic to a predetermined dispatch office during periods of emergency.
- RoIP is an integral technology needed to implement interagency plans for dispatch center modernization / optimization.

Recommended Steps to Implement Resolution

- The CIO Office of both Departments in conjunction with the WFIT and NWCG (representing Federal and State's interests) develop a national strategy and standards of operations plan (to be referenced by the Interagency Dispatch Operations Guide – IDOG) to implement this new technology.
- Ensure the Center Manager has the capability of switching radio traffic to another dispatch center in the event of COOP activation or other unusually high activity.

Benefits to Implementation

- Standards of use for RoIP will be developed and referenced in the Interagency Dispatch Operations Guide (IDOG). This capability will increase the safety of employees, contractors and the public.
- RoIP will enhance redundancy and advance overall communication systems providing cost avoidance within the constrained budget.
- RoIP will meet the NCPIP to ensure PMEFs in the COOP are met.
- The change will facilitate additional dispatch optimization / modernization efforts.

Additional Information

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