10 Year Anniversary Summary

SEWCRSG

MISSION: *The SEWCRSG is enhancing public safety communication systems by facilitating regional peer networking of emergency service providers. This is being accomplished through:*

- *Regular dialogue and information sharing*
- *Coordination with other related state/local initiatives*
- *Interoperability advancement*
- *Training*

1999

An initial meeting with representation from communication centers in the SE Region is held on July 20, 1999. Attendees discover that they are all facing similar issues and concerns and decide that meeting regularly to share information and identify ways to pool resources would be beneficial for all involved. The group decides to call themselves the Southeast Wisconsin Communications Resource/Support Group.

2000

Although Y2K proves uneventful, the sharing of contingency plans between members of the SWCRSG highlights the value of the group. Members also realize that by working together they will be better able to organize and provide training opportunities specifically geared for dispatchers.

On September 9, 2000, the SWCRSG hosts a symposium titled "Why Can't We Talk When Lives Are At Stake?" The symposium is directed towards communications supervisors and senior dispatchers and a total of 46 individuals attend. Topics covered at the symposium included: Generation X, Emergency Service Communications and Traffic Management Systems, Road Rage, and Goals and Benefits of Formal Training for Telecommunicators.

2001

- 2 committee meetings
- 3 training sessions:
  » Severe Weather Training for Dispatchers

After the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, the SWCRSG decides to temporarily suspend meeting in order for members to focus on internal security issues.

2002

- 3 committee meetings

The SWCRSG takes time to regroup and reorganize and slowly starts moving forward again.

2003

- 6 committee meetings
- 2 training sessions with 102 attendees representing 33 agencies
  » Weapons of Mass Destruction / Terrorism Awareness Class for Dispatchers
  » Working Effectively with DOT-TOC and Electrical Field Personnel

The SWCRSG is back on track and moving forward with training initiatives.

2004

- 6 committee meetings
- 2 training sessions with 77 attendees representing 17 agencies
  » Severe Weather Training for Dispatchers

The SWCRSG sponsors a "Communication Back-Up and Redundancy NOW!" workshop to engage SE Wisconsin public safety agencies in reviewing existing infrastructure and system capabilities. The workshop results in a comprehensive action plan for the SWCRSG: compile back-up plan inventory, identify needs, raise awareness, develop training activities and develop a pilot program for redundancy.

The SWCRSG "buys a vowel" and becomes the SEWCRSG.

2005

- 9 committee meetings
- 2 training sessions with 160 attendees representing 57 agencies
  » Amber Alert and Deciphering Drivers License Records

Efforts focus on enhancing the SEWCRSG's organizational structure and development of formal bylaws is initiated. The group forms four sub-committees to assist with accomplishing the SEWCRSG's goals: Interoperability, Training, Outreach and 9-1-1. Work also begins on a number of initiatives including the development of the Wisconsin Interoperability System Exchange (WISE) and the creation of an SEWCRSG Web site.

2006

- 7 committee meetings
- 4 training sessions with 108 attendees representing 42 agencies
  » Severe Weather Training for Dispatchers
  » Terrorism Awareness and HAZMAT Overview

The SEWCRSG finalizes and adopts bylaws and subsequently establishes an interim Board of Directors. The SEWCRSG Web site, www.sewcrsg.org, is launched. As a joint venture with WI-NENA and WI-APCO, efforts begin on the development of a Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT) for Wisconsin.

2007

- 7 committee meetings
- 4 training sessions with 113 attendees representing 24 agencies
  » Basic Fire Operations and ICS Overview
  » Flight for Life and WI EMS Emergency Preparedness Overview

To assure longevity of the SEWCRSG and allow for the pursuit of possible funding opportunities, the SEWCRSG applies for and is granted status as a 509(a)(2) non-profit organization. The group also completes and launches the WISE application after an extensive data collection effort.

An MOU between WI-NENA, WI-APCO, SEWCRSG and WEM is signed on March 27, 2007 to establish procedures and policies to guide the use of the WI-TERT. The WI-TERT steering committee trains seven Regional Coordinators and WI-TERT is now able to be deployed if necessary.

2008

- 6 committee meetings
- 1 training session with 24 attendees representing 17 agencies
  » Amber Alert, Dispatch Customer Service and STOC Tour

The group continues to promote SEWCRSG and WI-TERT through their partnership with the TIME Program by staffing and managing booths at key stakeholder conferences around the state.

The first WI-TERT Team Member Basic Training course is held on August 25-26, 2008 with 20 students in attendance.

2009

- 6 committee meetings
- 1 training session with 54 attendees representing 20 agencies
  » Missing and Exploited Children – Response Initiatives and Awareness

The SEWCRSG holds a drawing and awards two dispatchers registration and lodging for attendance at the WI-NENA Annual Fall Conference.

WI-TERT efforts continue and three Team Member Basic Training Classes are held. WI-TERT experiences their first deployment by responding to the Patrick Cudahy Plant Fire in Cudahy, Wis.