



## WYDOT, SAFECOM convene public safety communications conference November 6, 2003 For Immediate Release

Government and public safety officials from across Wyoming are meeting Thursday in Cheyenne to discuss a critical homeland security issue — the ability of fire, police, and emergency medical services personnel to communicate by radio.

Studies show public safety officials across the nation have trouble talking to one another in operational situations one-third of the time.

This one-day conference is hosted by the Wyoming Public Safety Mobile Communications (PSMC) Project team and WYDOT. It is sponsored by the Public Safety Wireless Network Program (PSWN), which is now part of the new federal interoperability initiative, SAFECOM. Attendees will discuss funding, technology, and coordination issues directly impacting the development of WyoLink, Wyoming's statewide public safety wireless communications system.

“The goal of the WyoLink project is to enable emergency responders to communicate with one another on demand and in real time,” Gov. Dave Freudenthal said. “Successful implementation of WyoLink will improve public safety communications, reduce long-term costs, and ultimately, save lives.” Freudenthal will address the conference in the afternoon.

“With homeland security and emergency preparedness at the forefront of our national agenda, identifying and implementing interoperability solutions must be a priority not just at the federal level, but at the state and local levels as well,” said SAFECOM's Rick Murphy. “This event provides a forum where public safety and government officials can discuss both the challenges and the solutions for improving public safety communications within the region.”

The conference offers an opportunity for participants to address policy issues, compare strategies, and gain insight from organizations succeeding in advancing interoperability.

The Wyoming PSMC Project Team will present an overview of the WyoLink project, South Dakota officials will discuss their statewide communications system, and Alaska officials will profile their Alaska Land Mobile Radio System. Also featured will be an update on the PSWN Program transition to SAFECOM.

SAFECOM serves as the umbrella program within the federal government to coordinate the efforts of local, state, federal, and tribal public safety agencies working to improve public safety response through more effective wireless communications. For more information on SAFECOM contact [safecom@dhs.gov](mailto:safecom@dhs.gov). Additional information on the Wyoming Communications Interoperability Educational Forum and the PSWN Program can be accessed at [www.PSWN.gov](http://www.PSWN.gov), by calling 1.800.565.PSWN, or via email at [info@PSWN.gov](mailto:info@PSWN.gov).

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