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IDAHO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

Prepared by:

STATE OF IDAHO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 15, 2015

Idaho Emergency Communications Commission

2015 Annual Report to the Idaho Legislature

Overview

The Idaho Emergency Communications Commission ("IECC") has worked diligently since its inception in 2004 to address the needs and improve the 9-1-1 telephone systems operated by Idaho counties and cities throughout the state. Consolidated emergency communications system centers that are commonly known as dispatch centers or Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAP") receive emergency calls from the public via 9-1-1 or a seven-digit phone number. The PSAPs are termed consolidated under Idaho law as all vital public safety agencies are dispatched out of the center and the PSAPs send the necessary assistance whether it is law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services without the caller needing to dial separate numbers.

Highlights of 2014

- **Enhanced Grant Fee Fund Awards to Provide Funding for 911 Center upgrades in 2015**

Adams County	**$ 38,333.00**
Benewah County	**$ 37,180.00**
Boundary County	**$ 23,290.00**
City of Twin Falls	**$ 28,765.00**
Clark County	**$ 160,475.60**
Custer County	**$ 7,604.00**
Elmore County	**$ 122,953.56**
Franklin County	**$ 19,520.00**
Gem County	**$ 259,891.41**
Jefferson County	**$ 255,630.34**
Nez Perce County	**$ 123,824.00**
Oneida County	**$ 141,183.36**
Owyhee County	**$ 22,200.00**
Payette County	**$ 76,043.06**
Power County	**$ 50,157.00**
Teton County	**$ 11,224.38**
Valley County	**$ 12,420.00**

Washington County	**$ 79,839.07**
Washington/Payette Co	**$ 469,476.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,940,009.78**

Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission:

> Enhancing Idaho's public health, safety, and welfare by assisting emergency communications and response professionals in the establishment, management, operations, and accountability of consolidated emergency communications systems.

The Idaho Emergency Communication Commission was created by the Idaho Legislature in 2004 pursuant to amendments to the Idaho Emergency Communication Act, Idaho Code § 31-4801 *et seq.* The purpose and responsibilities of the Commission granted by the Idaho Legislature are centered on finding solutions to the difficulties of counties and cities to keep up with technological advances in the area of 9-1-1 and emergency communications for public safety purposes in general.

There are currently forty-six (46) PSAPs in Idaho, forty (40) are operated by county sheriff's offices, five (5) by cities through their police departments or by contract with another city, (City of Moscow), and four counties (Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln and Gooding) are served by a regional PSAP known as SIRCOMM. There are currently two (2) Secondary PSAPs in Idaho operated by the Idaho State Police (North and South).

Please refer to Appendix J for references to the legislative authority for the creation of the IECC.

Commission Representation

The Commission is comprised of thirteen members and one ex-officio member. As indicated below, the majority of the members represent various local statewide governmental associations, interested members of the private sector and the public at large from all regions of the State of Idaho. All of these members are appointed by the Governor. Two members are members by nature of their position-Director of the Idaho State Police or designee and the Adjutant General or designee. The ex-officio member is a representative of the Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Garret Nancolas – *Chair*
Association of Idaho Cities
City of Caldwell

Representative Rich Wills – *Vice Chair*
Public at Large
Idaho House of Representatives

Michele Carreras – *Treasurer*
Idaho State Emergency Medical Services Communications Center

VACANT
Idaho Emergency Medical Services Assoc.

Chief Scot Haug
Idaho Chiefs' of Police Association
City of Post Falls

Lt. Kevin Haight
Designee for **Col Ralph Powell,** Director
Idaho State Police

Lan Smith
Idaho Association of Counties

Sheriff Len Humphries
Idaho Sheriff's Association
Fremont County

Chief Paul Roberts
Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Boise Fire Department

Bryan Taylor
Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Prosecuting Attorney, Canyon County

Jodi McCrosky
Traditional Phone Service Industry

Jerry Piper
Wireless Phone Industry
CTC Wireless

Brig Gen Brad Richy, Director
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Designee for Major General
Gary Sayler

Andrew Snook
Deputy Attorney General
Idaho Attorney General's Office

Activities and Accomplishments

- **Meetings and Training Seminars**

The Commission conducted bi-monthly meetings throughout 2014. In keeping with the Commission's mission and to accommodate the interest from different areas of the state, the Commission met in Idaho Falls in May and again in Lewiston in November.

- **Operations and Funding**

The funding for the operation of the Commission comes from an assessment level of one percent (1%) of all emergency communications fees collected in the state. The service providers collect the fee in the amount up to $1.00 per line from their customers and then remit this to individual counties or 9-1-1 service areas. The counties are then responsible for sending 1% of the fee to the Commission.

The Commission approved an annual operating budget of $284,300.00 for fiscal year 2015 (FY15) attached as Appendix B. During fiscal year 2014 (FY14), $198,364.24 was revenue collected from the forty four counties who currently assess and collect the fee. A copy of the final operating budget for FY14 is included in Appendix A.

With the implementation of the Enhanced Grant Fee and thirty-nine (39) participating counties of forty-four (44) total, the revenue collected through this fee was $2,029,473.14 in FY 2014. See Appendix G for a list of participating counties and Appendix J for legislative authority for the Enhanced Grant Fee

- **Status of E9-1-1 in Idaho**

The Commission has continued to assess the needs of the local governments throughout Idaho. We understand that citizens expect the same level of service throughout the state regardless of how they are contacting area 9-1-1 centers throughout Idaho through the use of a wireline or wireless phone and whether or not they are in an urban or rural setting.

The key to this service is known as Enhanced 9-1-1 ("E9-1-1"). E9-1-1 is the ability of a PSAP to obtain a caller's callback number and an address when a caller dials 9-1-1. This means that the PSAP receives voice-only 9-1-1 calls and the dispatcher must obtain the type of emergency, the telephone number and the location from the caller. If the caller is unable to speak the needed emergency response is delayed. All PSAPs in Idaho currently have this capability (E9-1-1). With the awards of the FY15 Enhanced Grant Fee all counties in the State of Idaho will have E9-1-1 capabilities that are also Phase II Wireless compliant by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015.

The Commission has set goals to ensure that all citizens in the State of Idaho are able to benefit from technology widely available. These goals are as follows:

1. Ensure that all PSAPs are brought to the E9-1-1 level. It should be noted, this goal was met in 2014 when Butte County went live with their new system.

2. Ensure that all PSAPs are compliant with requirements to receive information from callers using a wireless or cell phone, which is known as Phase I and Phase II. Phase I ensures that a PSAP has a callback number for the wireless phone and identification of the cell-tower from which the call originated. Phase II means that a wireless 9-1-1 call has Phase I requirements plus location of the caller within 125 meters of the location of the call 67% of the time and selective routing based upon those coordinates. This essentially means that a PSAP can direct first responders to the basic location of the caller. Of the forty-six (46) PSAPS with E9-1-1 capability, forty-three (43) are capable of receiving name, phone number and location information from a caller using a wireless phone. With the FY 2015 grant awards we are happy to say that by the end of FY 2015, all Counties will be Phase II compliant.

3. Assess the feasibility of implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 ("NG9-1-1") throughout Idaho. NG9-1-1 is a system comprised of managed IP-based networks and elements that augments present E9-1-1 features and functions. It is designed to provide access to emergency services from all sources and to provide multimedia data capabilities for PSAPs. A good example would be a caller using text messaging from a wireless phone or similar form of communication devices to access an Idaho PSAP.

The Commission is pleased to report that in 2014 through the 25-cent grant fund, all of the 46 PSAPs are E9-1-1. In keeping with our goals and utilizing the grant fund, the 46 PSAPs are either Phase II Wireless compliant or have been given grants and are in the migration process. By the end of FY 2015, 100% of all PSAPs will be Phase II compliant.

The main obstacle for all PSAPs is the lack of resources and funding (including equipment maintenance and upgrade costs). E9-1-1 systems are expensive and require annual maintenance agreements. These costs tend to be in excess of the revenue received from current fees collected in those counties.

The Commission's goal was to move all PSAPs to Phase II by January 2014. Due to a delay in standing up Butte County's system, and equipment that was no longer supported by the vendor (Onieda and Clark Counties), this goal will now be met by the end of FY 2015. The success of the grant fund is an outstanding item of note and the the Commission is pleased to report that all counties in Idaho are E9-1-1 and will be Phase II capable by the end of FY 2015. Washington and Payette Counties embarked on a first of its kind in the State of Idaho coordinated host

remote system in 2014 with and expectation to begin installation of the system in FY 2015-16. This system is a shared call processor housed at the central telephone office that both PSAPs are tied into. This demonstrates the ability for counties to enter into a joint grant request to share resources and equipment. Consequently, this type of system will save resources for the counties, commission, and individual citizen while increasing survivability and interoperability for both PSAPs.

The Commission completed and approved a state plan for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1. The Plan utilizes the format outlined in the collaborative agreement between the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA) and the National 9-1-1 Implementation Coordination Office (ICO). The state plan is needed to address the strategic and operational needs of the state's PSAPs and is a prerequisite to receive federal funds and support. This new network will serve the increasing needs of all Idaho's PSAPs in meeting requirements of new communications technologies. The plan will also include a financial analysis and the potential impact on staffing. The IECC has formed a NG9-1-1 working group comprised of representatives from each county and the 6 regions in the state (same geographic boundaries used by the SIEC). The representatives from those counties/regions will help provide opinion, guidance, and input on the direction the individual counties, PSAPs, and communities would like to achieve in the Next Generation System for Idaho. The first meeting will occur on January 14th, 2015. This is the next step documented in the State of Idaho Next Generation Plan. This process will be ongoing with governance, financial considerations and structure.

Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Standards and Training Committee

Mission Statement
To promote professional development and standardization of public safety communications in the State of Idaho.

History
The PSAP Standards and Training Committee was formed in 2007 by the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (IECC) as an advisory committee. The PSAP Standards and Training Committee is comprised of twelve members from dispatch centers across the State of Idaho. The committee brings over 279 years of combined law enforcement experience, comprised of representatives from each ISP District, coming from Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices of all sizes. The committee membership consists of senior dispatchers, first line supervisors, managers, and directors with a variety of backgrounds from career dispatchers to commissioned officers. Additionally, the PSAP Standards and Training Committee has a representative that sits on the IECC. The PSAP Standards and Training Committee has contacted, and continues to contact each agency in the state using surveys and round table discussions to ascertain what the committee can do to improve and enhance dispatch centers in the State of Idaho.

2014 Members

Idaho State Police and IECC Commissioner	Lt. Kevin Haight – Chairman
Bingham County S.O.	Erin Hidalgo – Vice Chair
Cassia County S.O.	DeAnn Taylor - Secretary
WHITCOM 9-1-1***	Wendy Berrett - Treasurer
Canyon County S.O.	Roxanne Wade
Fremont County S.O.	Anna Pearson
Idaho State Police	Trisha Marosi
Idaho State Police	DeLisa Orren – ex-officio
Latah County S.O.	Kathy Gaia
Madison County S.O.	Capt. Bruce Bowler
City of Nampa P.D.	Carmen Boeger
City of Pocatello P.D.	Donielle Whitney
City of Post Falls P.D.	Charlene Holbrook
Valley County S.O.	Kelly Taylor (Cooperi)

*** (WHITCOM 9-1-1 serves Moscow Police Department and Moscow Rural Fire and EMS, in addition to Whitman and Asotin Counties in Washington State.)

PSAP Standards and Training Committee Objective

The primary objective of the PSAP Standards and Training Committee is to define, create, and implement standardized training and education, as well as professional development to dispatchers and PSAPs in the State of Idaho.

2014 PSAP Standards and Training Committee Goals

1. *Prepare and implement the Third Annual 9-1-1 PSAP Seminar.*

   This goal was completed October 21-22, 2014. The Third Annual 9-1-1 PSAP Seminar was held at the Red Lion Hotel in downtown Boise. Using a seminar format, the PSAP Standards and Training Committee was able to assist in serving approximately 160 dispatchers from throughout the State. These participants represented more than 40 different city, county, and state dispatch centers, Idaho communities and citizens. This is an increase of approximately 60 participants from the First Annual 9-1-1 PSAP Seminar. Each dispatcher could earn up to 16 POST training hours by attending each available session of the seminar. Most attendees were able to take advantage of all eight training topics. For students unable to attend all sessions on both days, the option of attending only the sessions that fit into their schedule was made available. A total of approximately 1955 POST training hours were earned at no training cost to any attending agencies.

   Pam Thompson, Director of the Social Service Department at the Kootenai Medical Center opened the first day of the seminar as a keynote speaker with the topic of how to recognize stress, and how each one of us can write our own happy story. Ms. Thompson is a counselor who focuses, in part, on interpersonal relations, stress on the job, and crisis intervention. She

presented on how to cope with stress, and provided information to benefit listeners in both personal and professional environments.

Tim Dietz, a retired fire captain from Oregon, closed the first day of the seminar with the topic he titled, "Scenes of Compassion." He teaches around the country, from both personal and professional experiences, emphasizing the emotional difference that each responder can make in a situation, including the 'first' first responder taking the initial emergency call. The goal was for each student to learn how simple actions and caring words can greatly ease stress and leave a supportive impression to those involved in a crisis situation.

Dr. Edwin Hutchinson of The AMEND Center in Coeur d'Alene, ID, opened second day of the seminar. Dr. Hutchinson emphasized the importance of having a work philosophy and work life that is a balanced enhancement to a healthy and happy personal life.

Norby Rudel, from Internal Performance International, closed the second day of the seminar with a class he titled, "Let's Not Argue, I Happen to be Right." This class was highly interactive and emphasized how create a healthier and more positive work environment.

Between the keynote and closing speakers, the seminar highlighted each day with the following courses:

Next Generation 9-1-1 taught by IECC Member Jodi McCrosky from Century Link; Mike Olson from Century Link; Stephen O'Meara, Ada County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Operations Manager, and Cortney Dennis, Ada County Emergency Communications Manager. This class explained how Next Generation 9-1-1 relates to dispatchers, and what role it will play in the day to day dispatch environment.

The Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center $[IC]^2$, aka the Fusion Center, taught by Lacy Craig, Lead Intelligence Analyst, and Valerie Oscarson, Intelligence Analyst. This class taught about the support tools and resources provided by the Fusion Center that are available to assist dispatchers and officers on a daily basis.

Media Relations, taught by Andrea Deardon, Ada County PIO. This class was designed to help students gain a better understanding of the media. It covered both traditional and social media outlets.

Crisis Negotiations taught by Sgt. Joe Ramirez from Nampa P.D. This class provided tips and techniques for handling crisis negotiations, as well as how to take care of oneself.

Feedback from the seminar participants was, again, overwhelmingly positive.

2. *Provide quarterly training opportunities for dispatchers to be presented in various areas of the state.*
   This goal was met by providing the following training opportunities:

   A. Quarter 1: Combat Minded Dispatch presented by Amy Rasmussen, Regional Communications Officer from the Idaho State Police.

Coeur d'Alene	17 Students
Moscow	32 Students
Caldwell	42 Students
Pocatello	25 Students
Idaho Falls	37 Students
Total	153 Students = 612 POST Training Hours

   B. Quarters 2/3 (Combined) Quality Customer Service in Dispatch presented by DeLisa Orren, Regional Communications Supervisor from the Idaho State Police.

Post Falls	16 Students
Moscow	12 Students
Nampa	39 Students
Twin Falls	19 Students
Blackfoot	22 Students
Total	108 Students = 432 POST Training Hours

   C. Quarter 4: Up to 16 possible hours per participant at the Third Annual 9-1-1 PSAP Seminar (See Above)

3. *Continued collaboration with POST to serve as a Dispatch Academy curriculum review board to ensure training material is current, standard, and relevant.*

4. *Work closely with POST in our focus to see Idaho adopt a mandatory certification standard.*

5. *Continued collaboration with the POST council in the development of dispatch materials for the online / long-distance eLearning Portal (https://post.idaho.gov/eLearning/.)*

Additional Accomplishments

The PSAP Standards and Training Committee website made a much-improved change to a new website. It can now be found under our parent Committee (IECC), on the Bureau of Homeland Security website. The PSAP Standards and Training Committee is still responsible for providing current information for the public education information. This site is also a resource for the emergency dispatch

community. The new site can be found at http://bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/ECC/PSAP.aspx.

The "Entry Level Emergency Communications Training Manual" created by the PSAP Standards and Training Committee is being converted to online training material. POST continues to work out the details of how this will be disseminated and presented to students throughout the state.

2015 PSAP Standards and Training Committee Goals

1. Prepare and implement the Fourth Annual 9-1-1 PSAP Seminar.

2. Provide quarterly training opportunities for dispatchers, to be presented in various areas of the state.

3. Collaboration with the POST council, Idaho Sheriff's Association (ISA), Idaho Chiefs of Police Association (ICOPA), the IECC, legislative members, and other stakeholders in the adoption of dispatch certification standards and requirements for the state of Idaho.

4. Continued collaboration with the POST council in the development / updating of dispatch materials for the online / long-distance eLearning Portal (https://post.idaho.gov/eLearning/.)

- **National Representation and Associations**

The E9-1-1 Program Manager, Craig Logan, who is an employee of the Commission, represented the Commission at the 2014 National APCO conference. He also attended the National Emergency Number Association Conference ("NENA") and one (1) National Association of State Administrators Conference ("NASNA"). Mr. Logan also conducted fifty-nine (59) 9-1-1 PSAP visits throughout the state to assist 9-1-1 administrators with technical issues and introductions to new role.

APPENDICES

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Appendix A
Final Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

E911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
2014 Expenses
For the Month Ending
September 30, 2014

DESCRIPTION	FY 2014 Budget	FY 2014 Expenses
COMMISSION AND MEETING EXPENSES		
Meeting Expenses	3,000	1,140
In-State Travel	8,000	9,108
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
E911 Project Manager Salary/Benefits	95,000	103,273
E911 Project Manager Salary/Benefits (TEMPORARY)	33,962	33,962
GRANT ASSISTANT PART TIME (lte) NO benefits	26,500	23,571
GRANT ASSISTANT Office Equipment/Supplies	4,000	3,828
GRANT ASSISTANT Telephone	500	417
GRANT ASSISTANT Fuel	1,000	13
GRANT ASSISTANT Lodging and Per Diem	5,000	6,872
Administrative Support	10,000	10,000
Office Supplies	1,000	449
Office Equipment	1,000	
Telephone	1,000	861
Photocopying	1,100	1,620
Postage	500	309
Administrative Rules	200	400
Capital Improvements		
Awards	400	173
Professional Membership fees	600	240
Statewide Cost Allocation Plan	5,000	683
CONTRACTS		
PSAP Web Maintenance	1,000	730
Consultant	7,247	
IN-STATE TRAVEL		
Fuel	4,000	2,674
Vehicle maintenance	1,000	236

Lodging and per diem	5,000	4,480
IN-STATE TRAVEL PSAP COMMITTEE		
Training	6,000	4,252
Travel, lodging and per diem	15,000	14,294
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		
NENA, NASNA & APCO CONFERENCES	13,000	13,520
	250,009	237,102
Contingency Funds	50,000	-
TOTAL ALLOCATED BUDGET	300,009	237,102

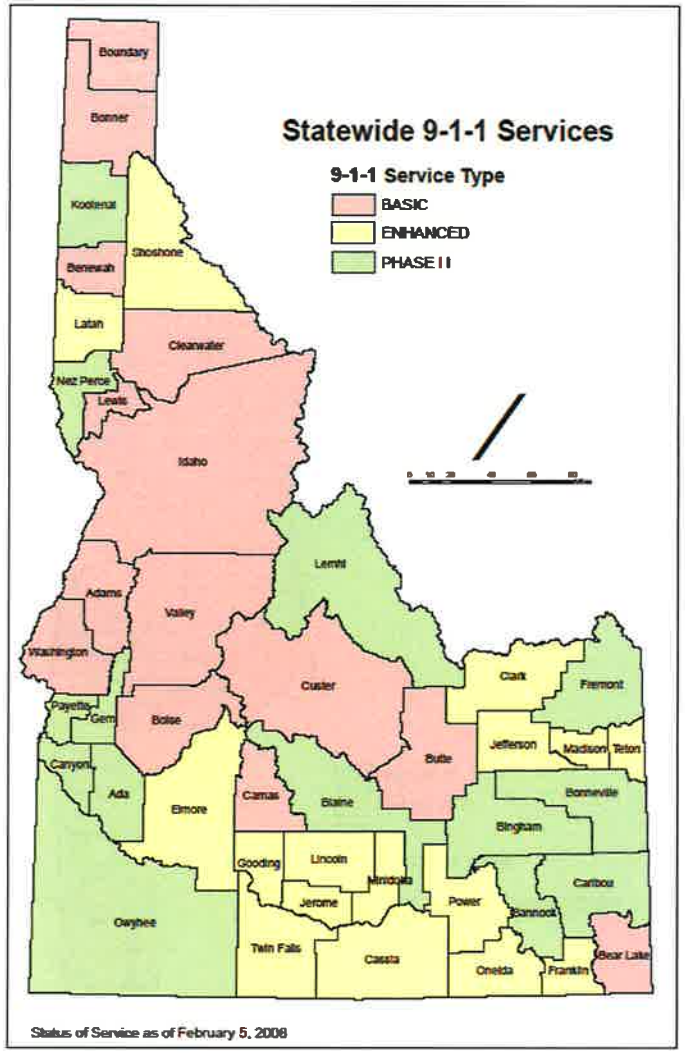
Appendix B

E911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
FY2015 BUDGET WORKSHEET

DESCRIPTION	FY2014 Budget	FY2015 Draft Budget
COMMISSION AND MEETING EXPENSES		
Meeting Expenses	3,000	3,000
In-State Travel	8,000	8,000
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
911 Project Manager Salary/Benefits	103,115	95,000
E911 Project Manager Salary/Benefits(TEMPORARY)	47,292	0
GRANT ASSISTANT PART TIME (lte) NO benefits	26,500	26,500
GRANT ASSISTANT Office Equipment	4,000	500
GRANT ASSISTANT Telephone	500	500
GRANT ASSISTANT Fuel	1,000	1,000
GRANT ASSISTANT Lodging and Per Diem	3,000	5,000
Administrative Support	10,000	10,000
Office Supplies	1,000	1,000
Office Equipment	1,000	1,000
Telephone	1,000	1,000
Photocopying	1,100	1,100
Postage	500	500
Administrative Rules	200	200
Capital Improvements		0
Awards	400	400
Professional Membership fees/Education/Courses	400	600
Statewide Cost Allocation Plan	5,000	5,000
Contracts		
PSAP Web Maintence	1,000	1,000

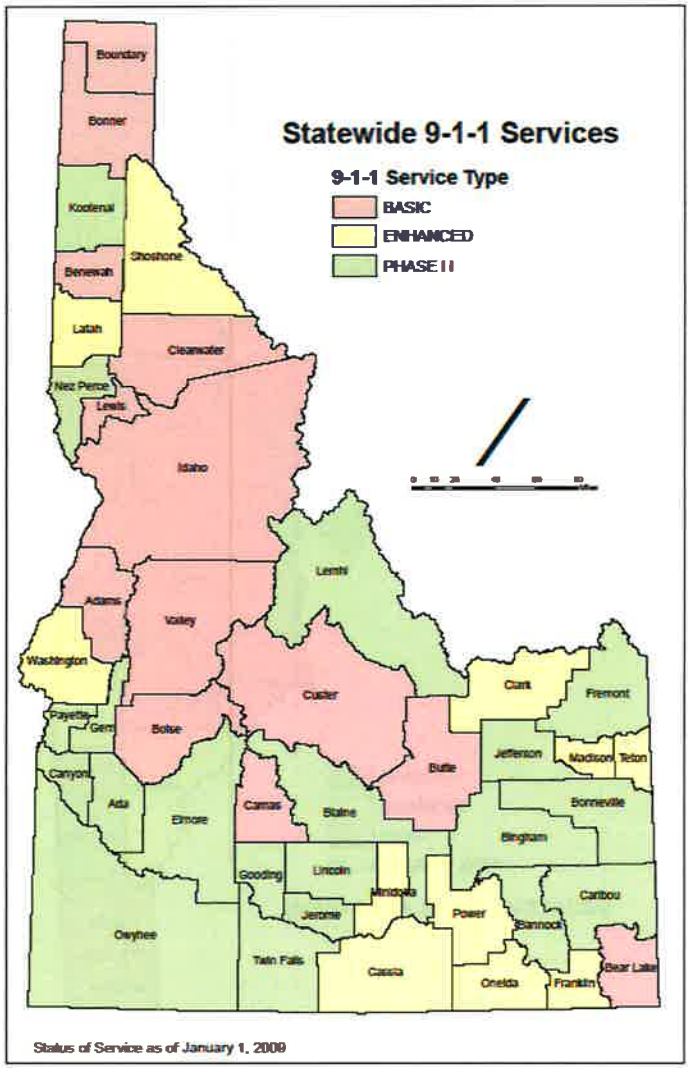
Consultant	0	50,000
IN-STATE TRAVEL		
Fuel	3,000	4,000
Vehicle maintenance	1,000	1,000
Lodging and per diem	4,000	5,000
IN-STATE TRAVEL PSAP COMMITTEE		
Training	6,000	6,000
Travel, lodging and perdiem	15,000	15,000
OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		
NENA, NASNA & APCO CONFRENCES	6,000	6,000
	253,007	248,300
Contingency Funds	50,000	0
TOTAL ALLOCATED BUDGET	303,007	248,300

Appendix C
2008 Status of 9-1-1 Service
Map



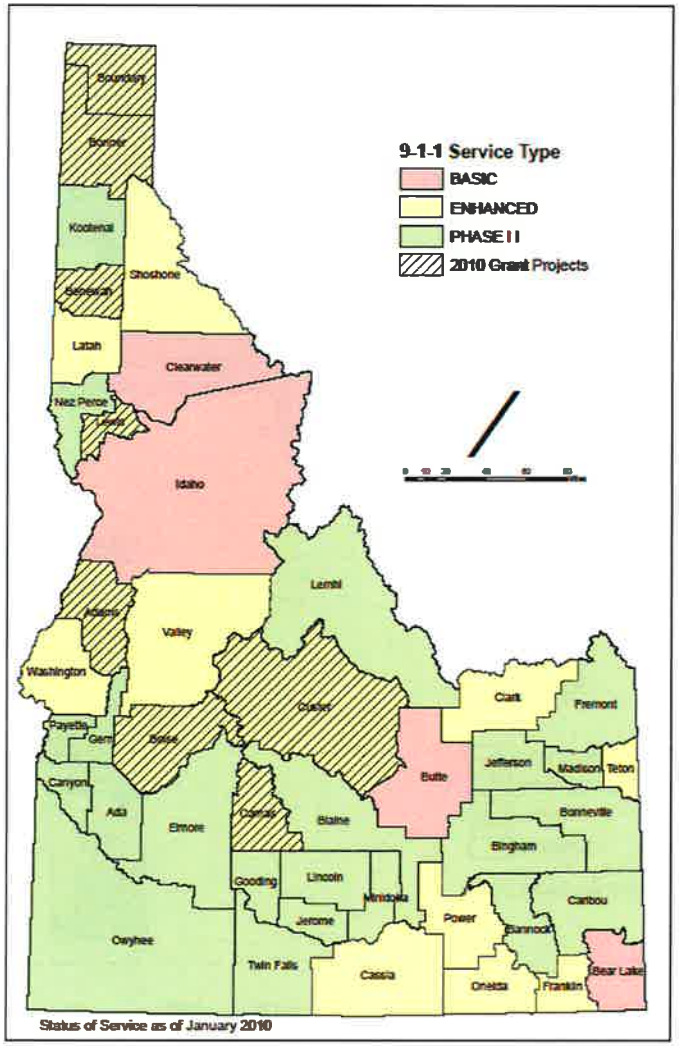
Appendix D

2009 Status of 9-1-1 Service Map



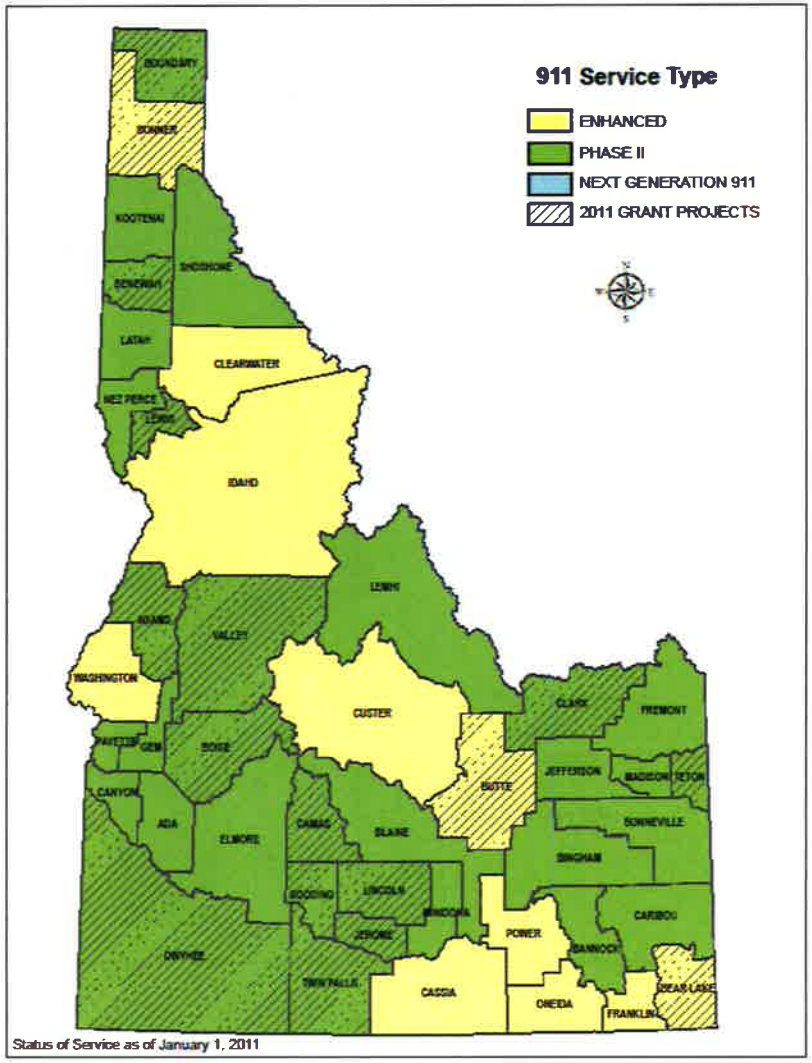
Appendix E

2010 Status of 9-1-1Service Map



Appendix F

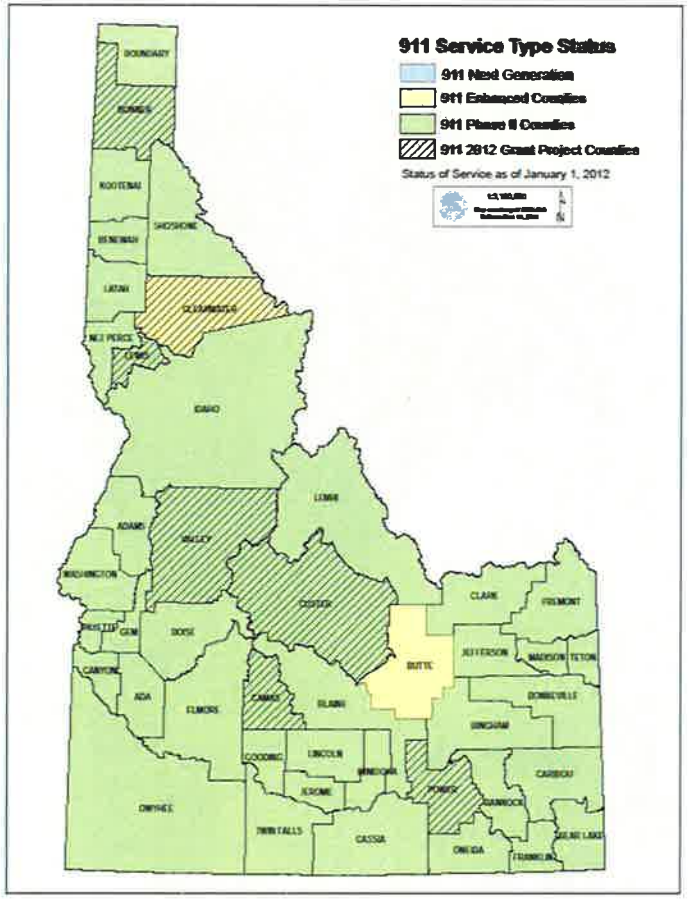
2011 Status of 9-1-1Service Map



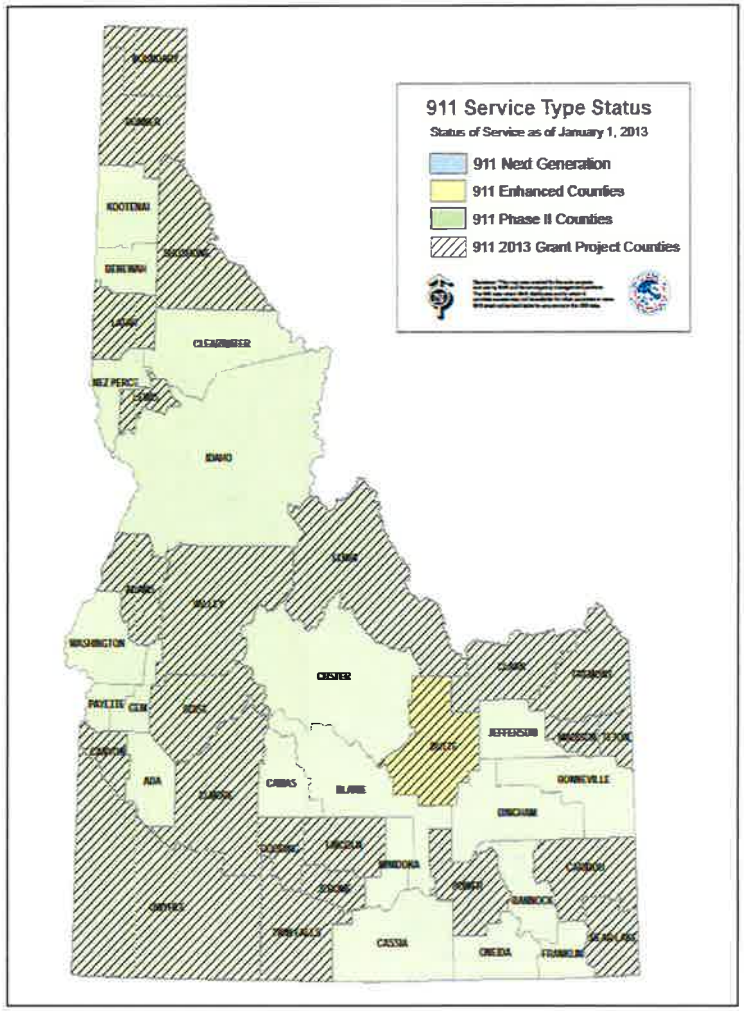
Status of Service as of January 1, 2011

Appendix G

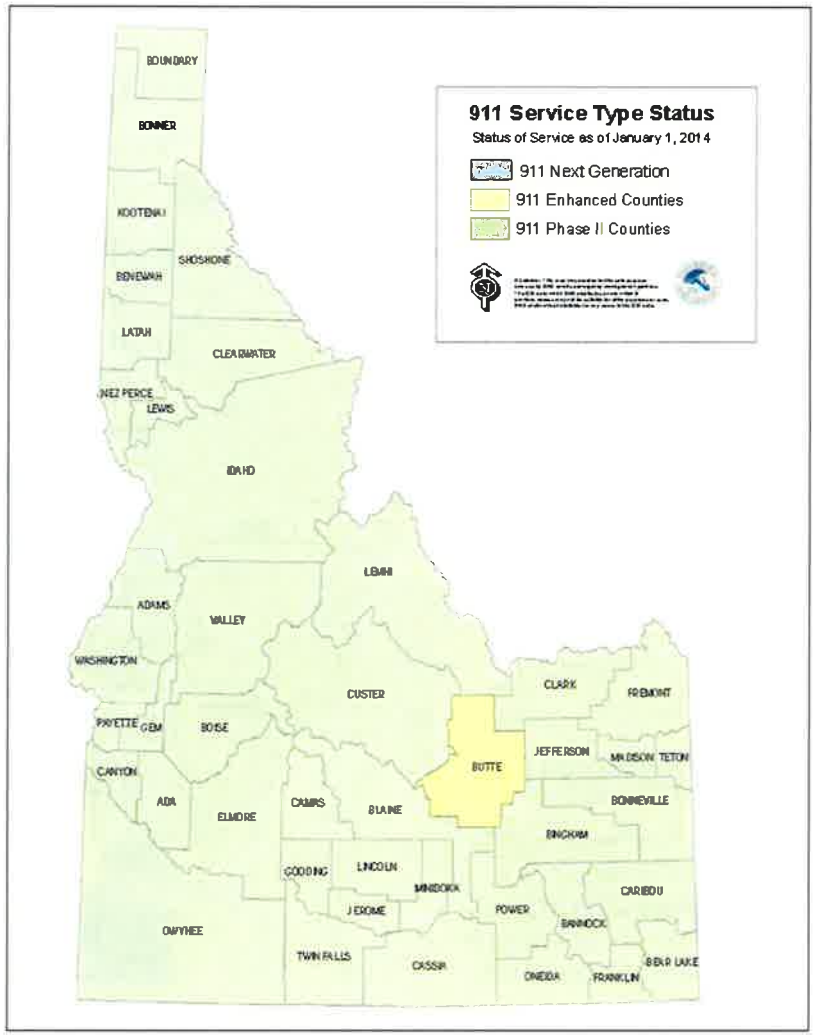
2012 Status of 9-1-1Service Map



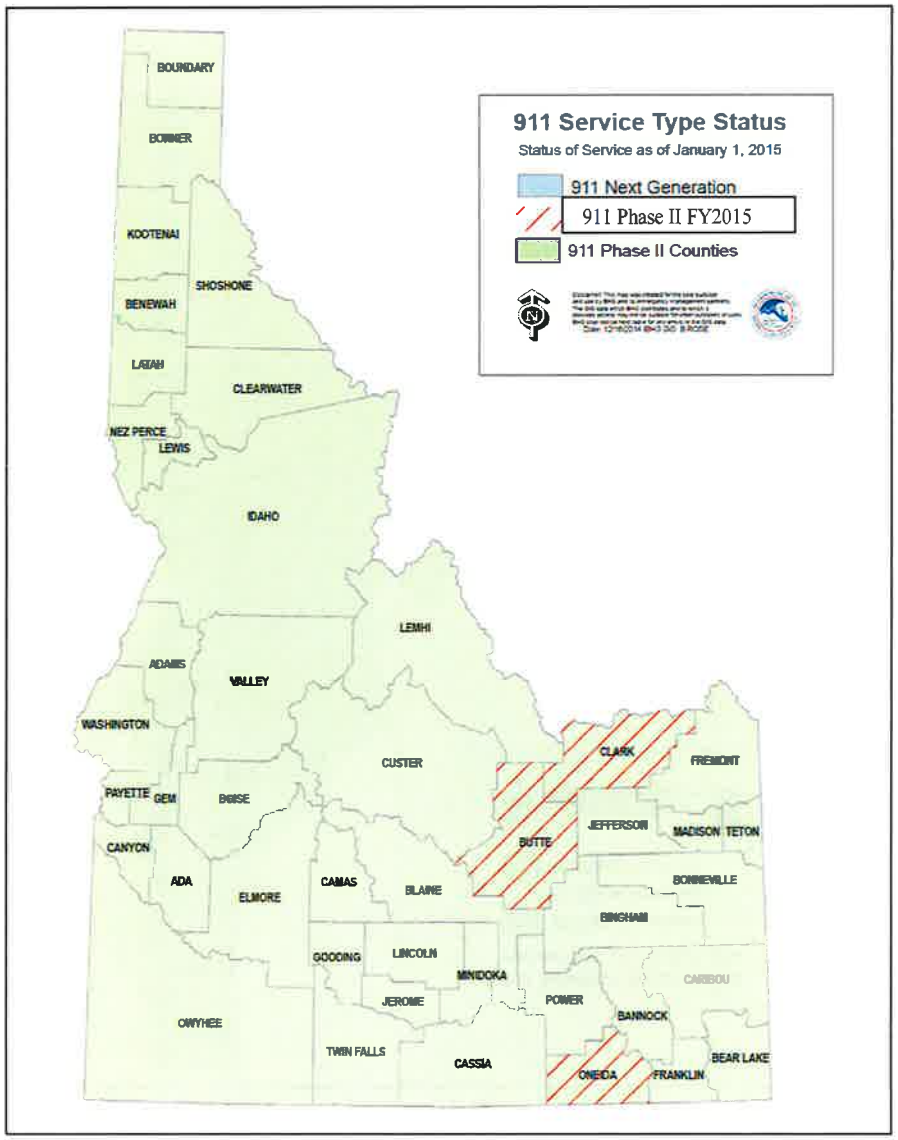
Appendix H
2013 Status of 9-1-1
ServiceMap



Appendix I
2014 Status of Service Map



Appendix J
2015 Status of Service Map



Appendix K
List of Counties Adopting the Enhanced Grant Fee

In order to collect the Grant Fee, each Board of County Commissioners must pass a resolution to begin collecting the Grant Fee. We will update this website each time the Commission is informed that a county has passed a resolution adopting the Grant Fee.

Counties	Date of Resolution	Effective Date
Adams	06/23/08	07/01/08
Bear Lake	08/04/08	09/01/08
Benewah	06/30/08	07/01/08
Bingham	06/18/08	07/01/08
Boise	06/16/08	07/01/08
Bonner	06/24/08	07/01/08
Boundary	12/23/08	02/01/09
Butte	09/22/08	12/01/08
Camas	02/09/09	04/01/09
Canyon	06/25/08	07/01/08
Caribou	06/23/08	07/01/08
Cassia	06/23/08	07/01/08
Clark	06/09/08	07/01/08
Clear Water	07/18/11	09/01/11
Custer	12/22/08	02/01/09
Elmore	06/23/08	07/01/08
Franklin	06/23/08	07/01/08
Fremont	06/16/08	07/01/08
Gem	05/20/13	07/01/13
Gooding	07/28/08	09/01/08
Jerome	09/15/08	11/01/08
Jefferson	06/23/08	07/01/08
Kootenai	07/15/08	08/01/08
Latah	06/18/08	09/01/08
Lemhi	10/27/10	01/01/11
Lewis	12/01/08	01/01/09
Lincoln	11/10/08	01/01/09
Madison	02/23/09	04/01/09
Minidoka	06/23/08	07/01/08
Nez Perce	07/07/08	08/01/08
Oneida	06/24/08	08/01/08
Owyhee	06/16/08	07/01/08
Payette	06/30/08	07/01/08
Power	06/23/09	07/01/08
Shoshone	6/25/08	7/01/08
Teton	8/25/08	10/01/08
Twin Falls	6/25/08	7/01/08
Valley	6/09/08	7/01/08
Washington	09/11/13	11/01/13

Appendix L

2014 Enhanced Grant Fee Status Map

Appendix M

Legislative Authority

After almost 20 years since the original enactment of the Emergency Communications Act, there is still an increasing need in many Idaho communities. In amendments to the Act in 2004, 2007 and again in 2008, the Legislature found:

(a) Since the original enactment of the emergency communications act in 1988, many of Idaho's communities have found that they are lacking in the resources to fully fund emergency communications systems at the local level;

(b) Changes in technology and the rapid growth of communications media have demonstrated that financing such systems solely by a line charge on subscribers to wire line services does not reflect utilization of emergency communications systems by subscribers to wireless and other forms of communications systems;

(c) There is a need to enhance funding for the initiation and enhancement of consolidated emergency communications systems throughout the state;

(d) Utilization of cellular telephones and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) communications to access emergency communications systems has substantially increased citizen access to emergency services while at the same time increasing demands upon the emergency response system;

(e) In order to protect and promote the public health and safety, and to keep pace with advances in telecommunications technology and the various choices of telecommunications technology available to the public, there is a need to plan and develop a statewide coordinated policy and program to ensure that Enhanced 9-1-1 services are available to all citizens of the state and in all areas of the state.

(f) The need to implement planning for the migration to the Next Generation 9-1-1.

Idaho Code § 31-4801 (2009).

With these directives from the Legislature, the Commission has continued to strive to fulfill its purpose and responsibilities as prescribed in Idaho Code § 31-4816. These are to:

(1) Determine the status and operability of consolidated emergency communications systems statewide;

(2) Determine the needs for the upgrade of consolidated emergency communications systems;

(3) Determine the costs for the upgrades;

(4) Recommend guidelines and standards for operation of consolidated emergency communications systems;

(5) Recommend funding mechanisms for future implementation of upgrades;

(6) Serve as a conduit for the future allocation of federal grant funds to support the delivery of consolidated emergency communications systems;

(7) Report annually to the legislature of the State of Idaho on the planned expenditures for the next fiscal year, the collected revenues and moneys disbursed from the fund and the programs or projects in progress, completed or anticipated;

(8) Enter into contracts with experts, agents, employees or consultants as may be necessary . . . ; and

(9) Promulgate **rules . . . to carry out the purposes of the Commission's duties.**

Idaho Code § 31-4816.

In 2008 the Enhanced Emergency Communications Grant Fee was enacted to help fund E9-1-1, Wireless Phase I and II, and Next Generation 9-1-1 throughout Idaho.

§31-4819 Enhanced Emergency Communications Grant Fee

(1) Effective from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2014, there shall be an enhanced emergency communications grant fee established by virtue of authority granted by this chapter. The fee shall be twenty-five cents (25¢) per month per access of [or] interconnected VoIP service line.

(a) Such fee shall be authorized by resolution of a majority vote of the board of commissioners of a countywide system or by the governing board of a 911 service area.

(b) Such fee shall be remitted to the Idaho emergency communications fund provided in section 31-4818(1), Idaho Code, on a quarterly basis by county, city or consolidated emergency communications systems. Such fee shall be dedicated for and shall be authorized for disbursement as grants to eligible entities that are operating consolidated emergency communications systems for use to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The commission, on an annual basis, shall prepare a budget allocating the grant funds available to eligible entities and the portion of the funds necessary for the continuous operation of the commission to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(d) To be eligible for grant funds under this chapter, a county or 911 service area must be collecting the emergency communications fee in accordance with section 31-4804, Idaho Code, in the full amount authorized and must also be collecting the enhanced emergency communications grant fee in the full amount authorized in this subsection.

(e) If a county or 911 service area has authorized the collection of the enhanced emergency communications grant fee pursuant to this chapter, such county or 911 service area shall retain the full amount of the emergency communications fee that was set by the board of commissioners or governing board pursuant to section 31-4803, Idaho Code. The county or 911 service area is then also exempt from remitting to the Idaho emergency communications commission one percent (1%) of the total emergency communications fee received by the county or 911 service area as required in section 31-4818(3), Idaho Code. The remaining funds from the enhanced emergency communications grant fee collected shall then be remitted by the county or 911 service area to the Idaho emergency communications commission.

(2) On and after July 1, 2014, the collection of the emergency communications fee shall revert to the provisions of sections 31-4801 through 31-4818, Idaho Code.

Idaho Code § 31-4819 (2009).