

Improve and Modernize 9-1-1 System

The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

That the Legislature vote to implement a statewide emergency services internet-protocol network or ESInet to provide all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) with the network needed to implement next generation (NG) 9-1-1 services.

Reason for Request

Wisconsin is behind the times! NG 911 or next generation 9-1-1 technology has been available for about 10 years. Efforts to implement NG9-1-1 have been underway across the country. Wisconsin's 9-1-1 network is currently based on a copper wire network that is analog, cannot accept texts or pictures, retrieves location information thru slow circuits, and is supported by aged equipment and technology. No PSAP in Wisconsin has access to an ESInet due to lack of a network across the state and the cost of implementation.

A state-hosted or funded ESInet is the first step in allowing PSAPs to modernize their capabilities and access the latest technologies. ESInet would provide the capability for PSAPs to receive emergency communications via text message, video, etc. A statewide effort would provide the benefits of negotiated volume pricing.

A statewide ESInet will cost taxpayers less than each PSAP attempting to develop their own local system. In addition, there may be other resources – example: BadgerNet – that may provide a shared foundation for a statewide network. It took 27 years for all Wisconsin PSAP's to implement 9-1-1. The residents of this state cannot and should not wait that long for Next Generation 9-1-1.

Requested Actions

1. Support development of a statewide ESInet to provide all PSAPs with the network needed to implement necessary NG911 services.
2. Utilize existing funds from the Police and Fire Protection Fee to create the modernized statewide system while also maintaining the existing shared revenue appropriation.
3. Assign a state agency to oversee NG911 and create a council of stakeholders to guide statewide efforts to move to NG911.

We request these actions in order to assure that every citizen in Wisconsin, no matter where they reside or travel, be able to access 9-1-1.