

Vermont Public Safety Communications Task Force Overview

February 7, 2025

House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure

PSCTF History and Overview



Created in 2023 by Act 78

Tasked with the planning and implementation of a reliable, secure, and interoperable statewide public safety communications system

Task Force Members



Task Force Co-Chair: Barbara Neal, Executive Director, Vermont Enhanced 911 Board

Task Force Co-Chair: Jennifer Morrison, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Safety

Chair of the Regional Dispatch Working Group: Paul White, Selectboard, Barre Town / Chair, Vermont Regional Dispatch Working Group



Public safety answering point (PSAP) overseen by a municipal police department: Jim Mack, PSAP Administrator, Shelburne Police Department



Municipal official appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns: Mike Doenges, Mayor, City of Rutland



Firefighter Vermont State Firefighters' Association: Ron Kumetz, Chief, Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department



Emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic Vermont State Ambulance Association: Michael J. Wright, Chief Executive Officer, CALEX Ambulance Service

Project Vendors

- Televate, Project Manager
- Mission Critical Partners, System Planning Vendor

The logo for Televate, featuring the word "TELEVATE" in a blue, serif font. A grey swoosh underline is positioned under the "V" and extends to the right.The logo for Mission Critical Partners, consisting of a large black "M" with a red dash to its right, followed by the words "Mission", "Critical", and "Partners" stacked vertically in a bold, black, sans-serif font.A logo celebrating 15 years, featuring a stylized American flag with 15 stars and stripes. Below the flag, the text "Celebrating 15 Years of Making Outcomes Matter" is written in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for the Vermont Public Safety Communications Task Force. It features a green silhouette of a mountain range to the left of the word "VERMONT" in a black, serif font. Below "VERMONT" is the text "PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Existing 911 System and Dispatch Landscape

911 System:

- Statewide system that routes 911 calls and texts to the correct Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).
- Certified 911 call-takers:
 - Provide Pre-Arrival Instructions for police, fire, and medical emergencies
 - Use specialized equipment to connect individuals with emergency response agencies.

Dispatch Service:

- Operates at local, regional, and state levels.
- Focuses on coordinating and supporting emergency responders during incidents.
- Monitors responder activities, records locations, and provides necessary support during incidents.

Planning Project Overview

Considerations

- Governance
- Technologies and facilities
- Information flow/process from the 9-1-1 call
- Capability to communicate and coordinate with responders/dispatch
- Staffing and scheduling
- Dispatch processes and training
- Ability to record/document events/actions
- Funding and operations



Inventory Collection and Analysis of Current Statewide Equipment and Services

Data Questionnaire
Cyber Security Assessment
RF Systems Discovery



Assessment of Existing Governance Models and Communications Standards

Site Visits
Town Halls
Listening Sessions



Identification of Potential Models for the Statewide Public Safety Communications System

Workshops
Preliminary Designs
Final Design

For More Information

- Public Safety Communications Task Force: [Public Safety Communications Task Force | Department of Public Safety \(vermont.gov\)](https://www.vermont.gov/public-safety-communications-task-force)
- E-Mail: DPS.PSCTaskForce@vermont.gov