

Office of Emergency Communications Regional Coordinators

Chris Tuttle (Region II)

Prior to OEC, Chris served as the Manager of Emergency Operations in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Much of the emphasis in Chris' work has focused on radio and wireless communications, specifically first responder interoperability within New York City and the States of New York and New Jersey. Widely recognized in the region as a subject matter expert in the field of communications, his expertise and professional reputation were essential in conceiving and brokering a bi-state inter-agency strategy to solve interoperability challenges associated with underground tunnel communications on the PATH rail transit system. In addition, Chris' experience includes a variety of crisis management and emergency response planning and training projects for corporate and public sector organizations throughout the United States. Mr. Tuttle holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from the University of Rhode Island.

Bob Pedersen (Region III)

Bob served as the Director, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Division of Communications for the State of Delaware. In addition to other areas he was responsible for the installation, operation, maintenance, and system administration of a statewide 800 MHz Communications System used by approximately 16,000 subscribers comprised of state, county and municipal government agencies, fire, police and emergency medical services plus select federal agencies. Bob served as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), member of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), member of FEMA Region III Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), member of the Emergency Support Function 2 (ESF 2), plus other committee and working groups. Prior to this he served as a Secure Telecommunications Systems Specialist in the United States Air Force.

Jim Lundsted (Region VII)

Prior to OEC, Jim served as the Chief Interoperability Officer for the Missouri Department of Public Safety. In this role, he developed critical strategies that were integrated into diverse public safety organizations to ensure technology investments and grant funds would provide resources needed to drive statewide communications during emergency situations. Jim formulated a statewide public safety communication strategy to provide a robust communication framework among local, state, and federal government agencies in Missouri and surrounding states. His career also includes a number of various positions in support of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. His local government service includes serving as a firefighter, 911 center director, and emergency manager. Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from the William Woods University.

Dan Hawkins (Region VIII)

Dan's work in the field of communications interoperability with local, regional, state, tribal, and federal governments brings a robust set of institutional knowledge and insight to OEC. He has managed several national programs of technical assistance to state and local government on behalf of the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, particularly in the area of communications interoperability. Additionally, he served as a principal senior consultant and as a policy advisor for multiple Federal programs, including OEC, providing professional services, hosting training conferences, and producing publications and videos. He served as Montana's statewide interoperability coordinator from 1988 to 1995 and again from 2002 to 2003. Dan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and minor in Philosophy from Montana State University.

Tom Lawless (Region IX)

As the SPAWAR Systems Center Liaison Officer / Supervisor for the Operational Support Group, Tom served as the Program Manager for the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 1 validation efforts and has been rotated on multiple liaison tours to OEC and the FEMA Readiness Division. He was temporarily detailed to OEC to assume the role of Chief of Multi-Jurisdictional Communications Services (MCS) for three months and was responsible for coordinating DHS/OEC outreach, technical assistance, and governance support to all 56 states and territories as well as the local and tribal agencies. In addition Tom is also a reserve Deputy Sheriff an EMT, and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). Tom holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from San Diego State University and a Master's degree in Technology Management from National University in San Diego, CA.

Bruce Richter (Region X)

Bruce Richter joins OEC after 8 years providing direct technology support to state, local and Tribal public safety agencies as deputy director of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-Northwest, a program of the National Institute of Justice. Bruce retired as a division commander with the Anchorage, Alaska Police Department to help start up the Technology Center. At APD, he managed a regional 911 emergency communications center, and later supervised SWAT, EOD, and K-9 teams, as well as patrol and investigative specialty units. He began his career as a National Park Ranger on a remote Lake Superior island before moving on to seasonal backcountry assignments in Olympic and Denali National Parks, and gained experience in wildfire response and wilderness search and rescue. Bruce holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Alaska Pacific University, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Art in Justice from University of Alaska-Anchorage. Bruce also completed the Senior Management Institute for Police taught by the Harvard Kennedy School, the National Crime Prevention Institute at the University of Louisville, the Southern Police Institute and the US Army Northern Warfare School at Ft. Greely, Alaska.