



CITIES TO CELEBRATE ICIS 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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Cities that are part of a unique municipal radio system this week will be celebrating five years of interoperability. Member cities of the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) will be marking the milestone during a meeting and luncheon on **Thursday, December 4, at the Pasadena Rose Bowl Stadium Media Room**. Congressman Adam Schiff, who represents Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena and cities in the San Gabriel Valley, will be honored during the group's noontime luncheon for his leadership and contributions to the ICIS network.

ICIS Executive Director, Glendale Battalion Chief Don Wright, says the five year anniversary is a tremendous accomplishment. "We've come a long way since 2003," says Wright. "The ICIS network is the most advanced municipal radio system in the Los Angeles area."

Wright says the creation of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the cities helped move the system forward. Participating agencies include the cities of Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena, Beverly Hills, Culver City, Pomona and Montebello. Subscribers to the system include the Bob Hope Airport, Glendale Community College Police, LA IMPACT and the Fire Departments of Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena.

The ICIS radio system is a shared system with components purchased and constructed by individual cities and linked together through a microwave network in order to provide regional coverage. By sharing member cities' radio infrastructure, users are able to roam from system to system without user intervention and without the expense of constructing additional radio towers. It's proven to be a valuable tool, especially for public safety agencies.

Over the years, the ICIS system has received funding from various sources. One of the system's biggest supporters has been Schiff, who has pushed for Federal funding. "With the constant threat of an earthquake, forest fire and a new era of homeland security demands, it is imperative that our firefighters, police, first responders and public officials

have the ability to communicate in a time of crisis,” Schiff says. “The cities in our region continue to lead the way in the development of interoperable communications systems. Whether chasing a suspect across city lines, reacting to a hillside fire, or worse, it is imperative that our emergency responders have the ability to communicate quickly and uninterrupted.”

Through the coordinated efforts of the member cities and agencies, millions in grant funds were secured to expand the system. ICIS received \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2005 Federal Appropriations Bill while an additional \$2 million was secured through the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program. Another \$683,300 was secured by Schiff in 2008.

Today the ICIS JPA oversees a network of more than 7,500 radios and a system that covers more than a third of the Los Angeles region. In 2006, ICIS was awarded the prestigious Helen Putnam Award of Excellence under the category of “Effective Advocacy, Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Cooperation.”