



Position Statement

9-1-1 Consolidation, Prepaid Cell Phones, Emergency Communications Tax Extension & Diversion of 9-1-1 Funds

Subject to revision. November 15, 2012

We represent the managers, operators, and users of the 9-1-1 system that helps insure the safety of Oregon's citizens on a daily basis. We do not support the strategies for consolidation of the 9-1-1 system put forward in the Kimball report dated February 2012. Consolidation of PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) is occurring throughout the state as a result of local partners working together. We do support consolidation in instances where it is locally driven, meets the needs of the residents, local governmental entities and the emergency response system. These naturally occurring consolidation efforts should be supported by policymakers without unnecessary regulation that can impede this work in progress.

We see the need for increased funding for 9-1-1 services; funding has not kept up with needs and has placed a stress on the system that is detrimental to individuals in need. Oregon is one of 7 states that decided to divert 9-1-1 funds in order to pay for budget shortfalls. We believe that 9-1-1 collected funds should be dedicated solely to the 9-1-1 system for the protection of the citizens of this state. Diminishing these Emergency Communications Tax Funds away from their stated purpose will create an increasingly unstable 9-1-1 system at the local level and may ultimately jeopardize the integrity of the entire emergency response system.

We support the extension of the current Emergency Communications Tax (the "9-1-1 Tax") at the \$.75 per month level, which is assessed currently. Filed legislative concepts call for the extension of this tax through January 2026 and clarify the inclusion of pre-paid cellular devices under this statute. The Oregon Department of Justice, Legislative Counsel and the Oregon Department of Revenue concur that pre-paid cellular devices are included in the Emergency Communications Tax and collection of those funds should begin immediately in order to support the 9-1-1 system that is being utilized on behalf of those consumers on a daily basis. We support these legislative concepts and the overall strengthening of the 9-1-1 system via extension and clarification of the Emergency Communications Tax for the benefit and safety of all Oregonians.