

the statewide emergency service excise tax. Initially, the bill calls for a cap of 10 cents per unit per month, with the capability to raise the cap to 20 cents per unit in 1999. At the time of the survey, the bill was awaiting the governor's signature.

Several states reported legislation for wireless surcharges or a cost-recovery mechanism is pending action in their respective legislatures. According to Bissonnette, more than 27 states were expected to introduce some type of cost-recovery legislation this year.

Only 15 percent of the survey responders indicated no action has been taken to comply with the FCC order.

Surry Latham of the Montana Department of Administration, said it would be difficult for her state to comply because cell sites are "few and far between," and most of the state does not have cellular coverage.

Maine is nearly a year away from implementing wireline enhanced 9-1-1 and, according to Stephan Bunker with the state's Emergency Services Commission Bureau, Maine will move toward Phase I and II of the docket at that time. Currently, wireless 9-1-1 calls are answered by four regional state police communications centers.

James Noonan of Delaware's Office of Telecommunications said that at the time of the survey he was not aware of any actions by his state to comply with the docket.

Other survey results showed that 65 percent of the states with a 9-1-1 system are controlled by a single agency. Only 53 percent of the respondents reported having 100 percent basic

9-1-1 coverage while 24 percent said their state had 90-99 percent basic 9-1-1 coverage.

Another 24 percent had less than 90 percent basic 9-1-1 coverage in the state.

States reporting 95-100 percent coverage of enhanced 9-1-1 was a mere 35 percent. Thirty percent reported having 80-94 percent enhanced 9-1-1 coverage, while 35 percent said less than 80 percent of their state was covered by enhanced 9-1-1.

Keating and other public safety communications officials have urged PSAP managers and administrators to make their formal requests now to their local carriers for wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service. He said the first deadline that PSAP managers must worry about is Oct. 1. That's when every wireless 9-1-1 call, whether or not they have code identification

... PSAPs won't know how much it will cost until they ask the carriers what they will charge and what technology they will use. Simply requesting this information will not bind PSAPs to a wireless carrier's solution.

Jane Bissonnette
XYPOINT Corp.
director of 9-1-1 services

capabilities, must be forwarded without interruption to a PSAP. The next deadline is April 1, when Phase I of the order is to be completed. Phase I requires wireless carriers to deliver a wireless caller's 10-digit phone number and cell site location, which gives the general vicinity of the caller.

Phase II must be completed by Oct. 1, 2001, and requires wireless carriers to adopt technology within five years to enable PSAPs to determine a wireless caller's location more precisely, within 410 feet or 125 meters, around the caller.

For more information, check the wireless 9-1-1 page on the APCO International World Wide Web site at <http://www.apcointl.org> ▲

Did You Know

The word *queueing* is the only English word with five consecutive vowels. It's not; the second "e" shouldn't be used. The two longest one-syllable words in the English language are *screeched* and *strengths*. The longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary is *floccinaucinihilipilification*, which means "the act of estimating as worthless." *Underground* is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with the letters *und*.

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