

Proviso 93.14:
First Responder Interoperability
2018-2019 Report on Agency Compliance



REPORT OVERVIEW

Proviso 93.14 of the FY 2018-19 Appropriations Act authorizes the South Carolina Department of Administration (Admin) to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations through the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster responses and communications. The following report serves as an overview of recent accomplishments and plans designed to support this proviso.

[Proviso 93.14](#)

“The Department of Administration is directed to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster responses and communications. First Responder Interoperability administration and coordination shall be funded as provided in this act. The cost-proportional funds shall be utilized for radio user fees of state agencies and public safety-first responders (fire, EMS, and law enforcement) that participate in the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system (Palmetto 800 participants). The Department of Administration, in consultation with the State Law Enforcement Division, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Emergency Management Division, and a representative of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, shall set a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on the technical aspects of the Palmetto 800 radio system and the jurisdictional requirements of the participant. If a Palmetto 800 participant reduces the baseline number of radios in use, the amount of funds allocated for the participant's radio user fees shall be reduced in a proportional amount. The funds shall also be utilized to provide private county and city radio systems with grant funds to be used for purchases of equipment that support interoperability with the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system and its users. Grant funds shall be allocated to private county and city radio systems based on the criteria used for Palmetto 800 Participants and in amounts proportional to the amounts allocated to support the per-site radio user fees of Palmetto 800 participants. A matching share is required by a Palmetto 800 participant or by a private county or city radio system in order to qualify for receipt of funds pursuant to this proviso. Each fiscal year the Department of Administration shall establish the level of match required based upon funding provided by this act. These entities shall be required to furnish such documentation as may be required by the department to verify that the matching funds requirement is met. Upon funding state agency and public safety-first responder user fees and private county and city equipment purchases, any remaining funds may be used to enhance and expand the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. All funds shall be held in a separate account established by the department for the purposes set forth herein. Any unexpended portion of these funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose. In the calculation of any across-the-board budget reduction mandated by the Executive Budget Office or General Assembly, the amount appropriated to the Department of Administration for First Responder Interoperability must be excluded from the department's base budget.

The Department of Administration shall provide a report on the status of the integration of the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system which shall include, but not be limited to, a list of entities who are

not integrated into the system as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year and the reason why they are not integrated. The report shall be submitted by October first, of the current fiscal year to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.”

SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM ACTIVITIES:

Funding to Assist First Responders

First Responder Interoperability Proviso of the FY 2018-19 Appropriations Act funds provided a 5 percent match to assist state and local first responders participating in the Palmetto 800 Statewide Radio Network. This funding also provided 6 percent in matching funds for eligible equipment purchases to first responder agencies that operate on existing city or county owned private 800 MHz radio systems.

Palmetto 800 User Update

The public/private partnership of the Palmetto 800 Network and its interoperability capabilities continues to be a model across the United States. The system currently has more than 47,855 primary radio users, 10,000 shared interoperability users, and 10,500 users that share the Palmetto 800 Core (Charleston, Beaufort and Florence counties).

Limited Network Expansion

Federal grant reductions and increased expenses continue to limit expansion of the Palmetto 800 system into rural counties of the state. Increased cost in insurance, operations, and maintenance of the State’s cache of emergency communications equipment and portable towers also limits funds for expansion of the statewide radio system. Admin’s Division of Technology Operations (DTO) was able to secure funds for one additional building at the Harbison site in Richland County and one additional airborne repeater to support hurricane evacuations.

County Activities

Berkeley County – Berkeley County completed its transition to the Palmetto 800 system in July 2019.

Greenville County – Greenville County completed its transition to the Palmetto 800 statewide radio system in May 2019. This migration included all public safety agencies (Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS and Emergency Management).

Jasper and Hampton – An additional new site was completed in May 2019 (Robertville). This site is located on the Hampton/Jasper County line and provides coverage in Jasper County, Hampton County. This site also fills in a gap on the U.S. Highway 321 hurricane evacuation route.

Lancaster County – An additional site was completed in March 2019 (Ember Ln.). This site provides coverage in the lower end of Lancaster County and the Lake Wateree area of Fairfield and Kershaw counties.

Newberry County – Newberry County completed its transition to the Palmetto 800 statewide radio system. This migration included all public safety agencies (Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS and Emergency Management).

Marion County – Marion County has signed a contract with Motorola to transition the Palmetto 800 statewide radio network. The anticipated cutover is late October 2019.

[DTO Public Safety Communications Team](#)

DTO's Public Safety Communications team is tasked with the mission of ensuring communications interoperability and coordination between law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service responders working events throughout South Carolina.

The DTO Public Safety Communications team supported variety of related events in 2018-19. Such events include the following;

- ▶ Hurricane Florence (September 2018) — state cache radios and satellite data/Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones were deployed to support the response and recovery.
- ▶ Hurricane Michael (October 2018).
- ▶ Winter storm (January 2019) Upstate, S.C.
- ▶ University of South Carolina home football games and special events.
- ▶ Clemson University home football games and special events.
- ▶ The Carolina Cup, Camden, S.C.
- ▶ Fall for Greenville, Greenville, S.C.
- ▶ Dixie Little League World Series, Lexington, S.C.
- ▶ Darlington Motor Speedway Race, Darlington, S.C.
- ▶ Assault on the Carolinas Bike Race, Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties
- ▶ South Carolina Special Olympics, Greenville, S.C.
- ▶ Cooper River Bridge Run, Charleston, S.C.
- ▶ North Myrtle Beach/Myrtle Beach Bike Week, Myrtle Beach S.C.
- ▶ Okra Strut, Irmo, S.C.
- ▶ Frog Jump Festival, Springfield, S.C.
- ▶ Pelion Peanut Festival, Pelion, S.C.
- ▶ Striped Bass Festival, Manning, S.C.
- ▶ South Carolina Poultry Festival, Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.
- ▶ Chitlin Strut, Salley, S.C.
- ▶ Various search and rescue operations across the state

[Communications Strike Team](#)

Hurricane Katrina and the 2005 Graniteville train wreck helped South Carolina realize the significant need for a highly trained communications response team to support public safety communications during disasters, large emergencies and significant events. The South Carolina Communications Strike Team is made up of state and local government communications experts from across South Carolina. DTO coordinates the Strike Team and a strategic public safety communications cache which backfills communications needs using satellite resources, mobile towers and cache radios across the state.

[Palmetto Tactical Communications Network \(PATCON\)](#)

To enhance South Carolina's public safety communications and interoperability capabilities, and to add statewide communications redundancy, DTO has continued to develop a statewide conventional interoperable repeater network that overlays the state. This system is free to all public safety agencies in South Carolina. DTO PATCON has interoperable repeaters in every county in the state. This network is comprised of 127 standalone transmitter sites providing additional interoperability, backup and capacity resources to the Palmetto 800 statewide network.

ENHANCED INTEROPERABILITY OPPORTUNITIES:

[North Carolina Viper and Charlotte \(N.C.\) System Interoperability](#)

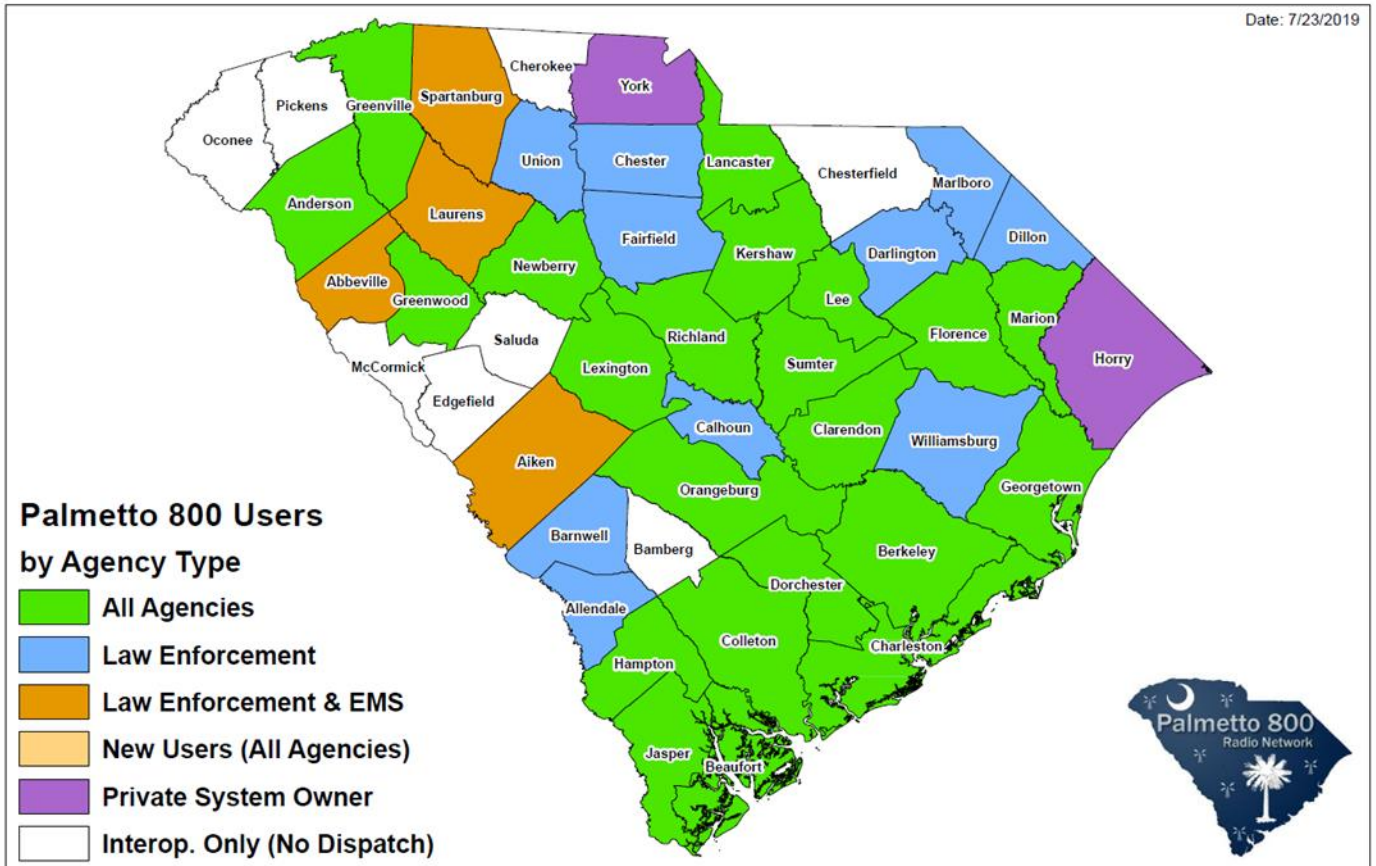
Charlotte, N.C. and the state of North Carolina (VIPER System) have P25 radio systems that are compatible with the South Carolina Palmetto 800 network. State agencies and local government, fire, emergency medical services, and law enforcement agencies respond across state lines on an almost daily basis for mutual aid or while trying to locate emergency calls.

DTO would like to interconnect the Palmetto 800 system to the Charlotte and North Carolina VIPER systems to enhance interoperability. This will significantly enhance communications across state lines during disasters, emergencies, law enforcement chases, fire and EMS response. This connectivity requires both one-time and recurring costs to connect the systems together. The inter-switching system interface (ISSI) technology would interconnect the two states' three systems to enhance interoperability, while reducing the manhours of device programming required to manually achieve interoperability.

FIRST RESPONDER INTEROPERABILITY REPORT

The following is a list of state and local government Palmetto 800 network radio users. The Palmetto 800 Network and the private county 800 MHz systems have exchanged radio system IDs to enhance statewide interoperability. The Palmetto 800 has exchanged system ID's with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, the City of Charlotte (N.C.), Brunswick County (N.C.), Augusta (GA), and Savannah (GA) to enhance public safety interoperability.

The Palmetto 800 Users map, which lists the system’s users by agency type, is featured below. On the following pages, you will find the State Agency Interoperability and Local Government Interoperability tables listed by county.



State Agency Interoperability		
<u>State Agency</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Adjutant General	National Guard has Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability.	National Guard has 100 radios but would like to have additional 800 MHz radios to support state emergencies.
S.C. Department of Administration (Admin)	Admin is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Admin maintains and deploys the state strategic cache of communications radio and response equipment for public safety agencies statewide.
The Citadel	The Citadel is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800.
Clemson University	Clemson has limited interoperability.	Clemson has about 100 radios for interoperability (law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services). It also utilizes local VHF and UHF radio system.
Coastal Carolina University	Coastal has limited interoperability.	Coastal utilizes Horry County's private 800 system. They have interoperability with local and state law enforcement.
S.C. Department of Corrections (DOC)	DOC has limited interoperability.	DOC utilizes a local VHF system in prisons. DOC has Palmetto 800 radios for other operations and interoperability.

S.C. Emergency Management Division(SCEMD)	SCEMD is fully Palmetto 800 network.	SCEMD maintains its own low-band redundant system.
S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and State Fire Marshal	LLR is fully Palmetto 800 network.	LLR is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Forestry Commission	All law enforcement officers have Palmetto 800 network.	Non-law enforcement firefighting units still utilize the Forestry VHF radio system.
Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Wil Lou Gray is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	DHEC is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Highway Patrol, State Transport Police, and Bureau of Protective Services	SCHP, STP and BPS are fully Palmetto 800 network	SCHP, STP and BPS are fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms	Sergeant-at-Arms is fully Palmetto 800 network	Sergeant-at-Arms is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice, (DJJ)	DJJ is fully Palmetto 800 network.	DJJ is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED)	SLED is fully Palmetto 800 network.	SLED maintains and utilizes VHF system for redundancy.
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)	MUSC is fully Palmetto 800 network.	MUSC us fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800.

S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	DNR is in the process of providing all its law enforcement officers with a portable Palmetto 800 network radio for interoperability.	DNR still maintains and utilizes its VHF radio system. Cost and user fees given as a reason for not fully participating.
S.C. Ports Authority	The Ports Authority is fully Palmetto 800 network.	The Ports Authority is interoperable with state Palmetto 800 system, utilizing the Charleston County P25 system.
S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP)	PPP is fully Palmetto 800 network.	PPP is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Department of Public Safety, (DPS) (See also S.C. Highway Patrol)	DPS is fully Palmetto 800 network.	DPS is fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR)	DNR enforcement officers are fully Palmetto 800 network.	DOR enforcement officers are fully Palmetto 800.
Santee Cooper	Santee Cooper law enforcement has limited interoperability.	Santee Cooper has an independent radio system not compatible with Palmetto 800 System. Santee Cooper Law Enforcement officers have 800 MHz radios for interoperability.
South Carolina State University	University Police are fully Palmetto 800 Network.	University Police are fully Palmetto 800.
S.C. State Senate Sergeant-at-Arms	Sergeant-at-Arms is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Sergeant-at-Arms is fully Palmetto 800.

S.C. Department of Transportation (DOT)	Senior Staff, engineers and SHEP have Palmetto 800 network radios.	Dispatch, SHEP and engineers involved in supporting hurricane evacuations and recovery have 800 MHz radios. Road work crews are still utilizing low band system.
State Transport Police (STP) (See also S.C. Highway Patrol)	STP is fully Palmetto 800 network.	STP is fully Palmetto 800.
University of South Carolina	USC is fully Palmetto 800 network.	USC is fully Palmetto 800.
University of South Carolina — Upstate	USC Upstate is fully Palmetto 800 network.	USC Upstate is fully Palmetto 800

Local Government Interoperability by County

Note: All county 911/dispatch centers and county emergency operations centers (EOC) have been provided with 800 MHz radios for interoperability between local government and state agency dispatch centers.

Local Government Interoperability by County		
<u>County</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Abbeville	Abbeville County has Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability.	All agencies have Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability.
Aiken	County Sheriff and EMS are fully Palmetto 800 network. All police are fully 800 MHz departments.	County fire is on UHF; all others are fully Palmetto 800.
Allendale	County sheriff and most police departments utilize Palmetto 800 network for interoperability.	County fire is on VHF, sheriff and most law enforcement agencies

		have 800 MHz radios for interoperability or primary use.
Anderson	Anderson County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	County fire utilizes VHF but has Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability.
Bamberg	Sheriff, EMS and fire departments have a few Palmetto 800 network radios for Interoperability.	Agencies utilize VHF and UHF for primary dispatch.
Barnwell	Sheriff and EMS have Palmetto 800 network radios and fire has some 800 MHz radios for interoperability.	Fire agencies utilize VHF for primary dispatch.
Beaufort	Beaufort County uses a private 800 network that shares Palmetto 800 core.	The private 800 MHz System is connected to the Palmetto 800 P25 core for interoperability.
Berkeley	Berkeley County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Berkeley County became fully Palmetto 800 network in July 2019.
Calhoun	The sheriff's department is fully Palmetto 800 MHz radios.	Sheriff's Department, St. Matthews PD and some fire departments have radios for interoperability with 800 MHz radios. EMS and fire have limited participation on the in Palmetto 800 due to equipment cost and user fees.
Charleston	Charleston County uses a private 800 network that shares Palmetto 800 core.	The private 800 MHz System connected to the Palmetto 800 P25 core for interoperability.
Cherokee	Cherokee County has limited Interoperability.	The sheriff's department, Gaffney PD and some fire departments have 800 MHz radios. Limited

		participation is due to equipment cost and user fees.
Chester	Sheriff's Dept. is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Police Departments have 800 MHz for interoperability, but not all equipment is activated. EMS and fire are not participating due to equipment cost and user fees.
Chesterfield	The sheriff and police departments have Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability.	Primary dispatch is VHF and UHF for law enforcement. Fire and EMS are not participating due to cost
Clarendon	Clarendon County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Clarendon County is fully Palmetto 800 county wide.
Colleton	Colleton County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Colleton County is fully Palmetto 800 county wide.
Darlington	The sheriff, police and the Hartsville Fire Department are utilizing Palmetto 800 network.	County Fire and EMS do not participate due to equipment costs and recurring costs. Darlington County Fire Department has some 800 MHz radios for interoperability.
Dillon	The sheriff and police are utilizing Palmetto 800 network.	Fire and EMS not participating due to equipment costs and recurring costs.
Dorchester	Dorchester County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire is on VHF and Palmetto 800; all others are fully Palmetto 800.
Edgefield	Edgefield County has limited interoperability.	Edgefield Sheriff, police and EMS have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Cost is given as the reason they are not participating fully.

Fairfield	The sheriff and police are fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire and EMS have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Equipment costs and coverage given as the reasons the county is not fully participating. Fairfield opted to utilize a commercial business system for fire and EMS.
Florence	Florence County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Florence County is fully Palmetto 800 network.
Greenville	Greenville County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Some fire departments and municipal police departments are still transitioning to the Palmetto 800 network.
Georgetown	Georgetown County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Georgetown County is fully Palmetto 800.
Greenwood	Greenwood County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Greenwood County is fully Palmetto 800.
Hampton	Hampton County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Hampton County is fully Palmetto 800.
Horry	All agencies are fully 800 MHz on the county's own private system.	Horry County uses a private 800 System. The county decided to install an independent radio system in 2016.
Jasper	Jasper County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Jasper County fully Palmetto 800.
Kershaw	Kershaw County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Kershaw County is fully Palmetto 800.

Lancaster	Lancaster County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Lancaster County is fully Palmetto 800.
Laurens	Sheriff, police and EMS are fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire is not participating due to equipment costs and recurring costs.
Lee	Sheriff and police are fully Palmetto 800 network	EMS and fire continue migrating to the Palmetto 800 MHz radio system.
Lexington	Lexington County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	The county is fully Palmetto 800. Batesburg-Leesville PD is utilizing UHF but has some 800 radios for interoperability.
Marion	Marion County is migrating to Palmetto 800 network in October 2019.	The county is currently using a private County 800 MHz system. The county approved using penny tax funds in November 2018 to switch to move to Palmetto 800 network.
Marlboro	Sheriff and police have Palmetto 800 network for interoperability.	EMS and fire have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. They would like some additional radios.
McCormick	McCormick County has limited interoperability.	All law enforcement and EMS services have a few 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Fire service is not participating due to the cost.
Newberry	Newberry County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Newberry County is fully Palmetto 800 network.
Oconee	Oconee County has limited interoperability	All law enforcement and EMS services have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Primary

		dispatch is UHF for all Oconee agencies.
Orangeburg	Orangeburg County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Orangeburg County is fully Palmetto 800.
Pickens	Pickens County has limited interoperability.	Sheriff, police, EMS and a few fire departments have 800 MHz radios for interoperability. This county is not fully participating due to cost and coverage.
Richland	Richland County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Richland County is fully Palmetto 800.
Saluda	Saluda has limited interoperability.	Sheriff, 911 center, County EMD and Ridge Spring have active Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability. Equipment costs and recurring fees are the primary reason for not participating fully.
Spartanburg	Sheriff, police and EMS are fully Palmetto 800 network.	City and county fire do not participate in the Palmetto 800 MHz system. Some fire departments have Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability. Recurring cost was given as the primary reason for not participating.
Sumter	Sumter County is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Sumter County is fully Palmetto 800.
Union	Union County has limited interoperability.	Sheriff's Office, police, and EMS have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. The cost, fees and need for better coverage were given as reasons for not fully participating.

		The county would like to switch to the Palmetto 800 if funding becomes available
Williamsburg	Sheriff, police and EMS are fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire has 800 MHz equipment for interoperability. County Fire needs additional funding to fully participate.
York	All Agencies are fully 800 MHz on the county's own system.	York County uses a private county 800 System. York County decided to install an independent radio system in 2007.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions or additional information regarding Proviso 93.14 and the South Carolina Department of Administration's compliance efforts, please contact George Crouch (George.Crouch@admin.sc.gov or 803-896-0367).