



## **Pocatello (ID) Police Department - Medium Agency Division**

INTEROPERABILITY. A word that abounds in conversations regarding radio communications. Communication is the key to everyday life, especially in the public safety arena.

In 2001, the Pocatello Police Department, the Bannock County Sheriff's Office, the Chubbuck Police Department and the 911 Board began planning for the future. Past cooperative endeavors, which were highly successful, gave impetus to future endeavors including a radio network that was truly an interoperable system.

This system has been joined by as many as 20 entities including police, fire and EMS from tribal, city and county governments covering parts of three counties. The infrastructure for a Project 25, 700 MHz system was installed in the fall of 2005. One COPS grant totaling 2.5 million dollars was granted to eleven agencies who signed letters of support and participation with the Pocatello Police Department spearheading the efforts.

With the first enhanced 911 system and the only nationally accredited Law Enforcement agency in the State of Idaho, the Pocatello Police Department is a recognized leader in Law Enforcement.

Most of the patrol units are equipped with Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) that receives Department records information. Dispatch information is sent via a radio frequency (RF) in a voiceless mode (depending on the severity of the call).

We have contracted for an imaging system that will allow the transmission of photos and mug shots from the computer system to the wireless units. A high speed data network is being planned to allow transmissions to occur more quickly than the current RF feature.

PDA's will be ordered to create another network for those officers such as Bicycle and Motor officers who do not have the ability to use an MDT. These PDA's, along with the MDT's, will serve as part of the framework for the MESH network which is in the planning stages.

The combination of cooperation among agencies, technology and human resources gives the Pocatello Police Department the innovative edge in the fight against crime.