



# UTAH COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

**KEEPING PUBLIC SAFETY CONNECTED**

Aligning UCA's Administrative Functions with Statutory Obligations

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# More Than Towers & Antennas

## The Radio Network = A Statewide Lifeline

- Not just steel, cables, and antennas
- Requires coordination, management, and expertise — and on-site technicians keeping it running

## What Keeps It Operational 24x7x365 support?

- Field Technicians – Traveling statewide to inspect, repair, and optimize equipment
- Property Management – Secure sites, reliable access, compliant leases
- Fleet Support – Vehicles ready for site visits and emergency response
- Network Operations – Continuous monitoring, troubleshooting, and resolution
- Stakeholder Partnerships – Agencies, PSAPs, and carriers working together

**Bottom Line:** It takes a team effort to ensure Utah's first responders can communicate when and where they need it most



# Purpose of the Presentation



DEMONSTRATE HOW  
UCA'S ADMINISTRATIVE  
STAFF FULFILL  
STATUTORY  
OBLIGATIONS



PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF  
COMPLIANCE WITH UTAH  
CODE §63H-7A AND  
RELATED STATUTES

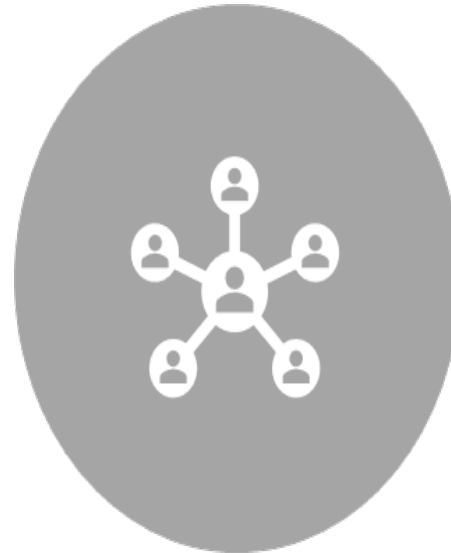


HIGHLIGHT RISK  
MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL  
STEWARDSHIP, AND  
OPERATIONAL ALIGNMENT

# Some of UCA's Statutory Obligations



MISSION – ENSURE FIRST RESPONDERS CAN COMMUNICATE WHEN AND WHERE NEEDED



§63H-7A-206 – ACQUIRE, MANAGE, AND MAINTAIN PROPERTY FOR THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



§63H-7A-304 – ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND COMPLIANCE IN CONTRACTS

# Independent State Agency

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The term “independent entity” is defined in Utah Code §63E-1-102 (Independent Entities Act).

- Under this statute:
  - Independent entity means an entity that is part of the state government, but not subject to direct control by the governor or another state department, and is created by the state to perform a public function.

These entities are governed by their own boards or commissions and have statutory independence in management, finances, and operations.

# UCA's Independent Status & Legislative Oversight



## Independent Agency – UCA reports directly to the Legislature

Legislative oversight ensures accountability and alignment

Utah Senate Bill 154 requires:

- Use of best-practice tools from the Legislative Auditor General
- Results provided to Legislative and Executive Branch Leadership

### Best Practices Toolbox



Best Practices Self Assessment



Board Skills Matrix



Request Training



Governance Questionnaire



Best Practices Checklist



GOPB Guide to Strategic Planning



Performance Measurement Playbook



Pitfall Index



Forecasting Conversation Guide



Roadmap of a Performance Audit



The Best Practice Handbook



# Annual Financial Audit

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Audited annually by the Office of the State Auditor

## Audit Focus:

- Financial statements accuracy
- Internal control strength
- Compliance with state and federal requirements

## Why It Matters:

- Demonstrates transparency
- Strengthens accountability
- Builds stakeholder and public trust

# Strengthening UCA's Operational Capacity



## New Positions Supporting Property & Network Operations:

- Property Manager – Manages leases, inspections, and compliance
- Fleet Vehicle Specialist – Oversees vehicle assets and maintenance
- Network Operations Center (NOC) Technician – Provides real-time monitoring and support
- Elevated tech role to Informational & Security Officer

These roles enhance UCA's ability to meet statutory mandates and maintain readiness



# Value of New Positions



## Property Manager

Supports UCA: Manages leases, inspections, and compliance.

Value to Stakeholders: Ensures site access & network stability.



## Fleet Vehicle Specialist

Supports UCA: Manages readiness, lowers costs.

Value to Stakeholders: Faster response to network issues.



## NOC Technician

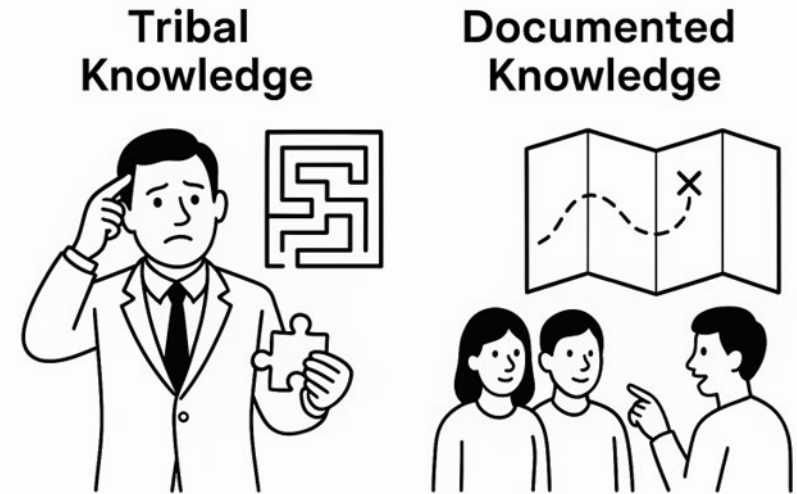
Supports UCA: Real-time monitoring, faster resolution.

Value to Stakeholders: Increased reliability of communications.

# Alignment with Statutory Obligations - Agreements

## How Agreements Help Stakeholders:

- Clarity & Certainty – Reduce disputes
- Access & Reliability – Lawful site access, continuous operations
- Transparency & Trust – Documented processes assure accountability
- Operational Continuity – Agreements keep public safety communications running



# Risk Mitigation & Compliance

- Secure legal rights to occupy and operate all sites
- Reduce exposure to claims and disputes
- Demonstrate compliance during audits

Note: UCA finds items at sites all the time – presents safety concerns



# How Stakeholders Can Help

01

Review &  
Return  
Agreements  
Promptly –  
Avoid delays in  
site operations

02

Provide  
Accurate Site  
Information –  
Keep UCA  
updated on  
equipment,  
tenants, and  
access needs

03

Report  
Concerns  
Early – Flag  
safety issues,  
site damage,  
or  
unauthorized  
use

04

Support Fiscal  
Stewardship –  
Ensure costs  
and  
recoveries are  
aligned with  
statutory  
requirements

05

Collaborate with  
UCA Staff –  
Work together  
to maintain  
uninterrupted  
public safety  
communications



# Cybersecurity Matters to UCA

Public safety networks are prime targets for cyberattacks

UCA must ensure integrity, confidentiality, and availability of communications

Cybersecurity = Digital protections + Physical safeguards

Physical attacks (e.g., theft, vandalism, sabotage) can also disrupt operations

# Cyberattack Trends

2023 US federal agencies reported over 32,000 cyber security incidents. Almost 10% increase from the previous year

In 2024 the FBI's internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) reported total losses of 16.6 billion.  
- Ransomware remain the most widespread threat to government agencies.

Most common attacks were:

- Phishing, and credential harvesting.
- Exploitation of unpatched systems.
- Third party software vulnerabilities. (Audit your vendors, and make sure they are compliant)

Rising Threats:

- Disinformation campaigns. (Rio Tinto, lithium mining in Serbia, in 2022, 2.5 billion lost)
- Deep fakes. (Verify before acting)
- AI-powered Phishing and Social Engineering.



# UCA's Cybersecurity Pillars



**Prevention** – Firewalls, endpoint protection, access controls, training of all employees

**Detection** – 24/7 monitoring, intrusion detection systems, alerts

**Response** – Incident response plan, coordination with DPS & CISA

**Recovery** – Redundancy, backups, and continuity of operations

**Compliance** – Regular audits, policy updates, vendor requirements

**Physical Security** – Controlled access, surveillance, and hardened facilities





# How Stakeholders Can Support

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REPORT SUSPICIOUS NETWORK  
OR SITE ACTIVITY PROMPTLY



FOLLOW UCA'S  
CYBERSECURITY AND PHYSICAL  
SITE ACCESS POLICIES



INCLUDE SECURITY  
REQUIREMENTS IN LOCAL  
PROCUREMENT/AGREEMENTS



SHARE INFORMATION WITH  
UCA ON VULNERABILITIES OR  
INCIDENTS

# So What?!?!?

Reliable Public Safety Network – Agreements & property management ensure first responder communications

Protecting Taxpayer Resources – Compliance prevents misuse (UCA is audited yearly on our finances)

Operational Readiness – Reduces downtime, improves response by having agreements in place

Stakeholder Confidence – Transparency builds trust, built by being prepared

# Conclusion

Compliance protects the network and public safety

- Next Steps:
  - Continue monitoring
  - Refine policies
  - Ensure transparency

