

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 2 Communications Annex

PRIMARY AGENCIES

Mohave County Sheriff's Office - Lead
Mohave County Emergency Management - Lead
Volunteer Amateur Radio Emergency Services

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Local cellular companies
Local telephone companies
Local Law Enforcement
Local Fire Departments
Mohave County Public Works
Bureau of Land Management - Kingman

Available through the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Arizona State Department of Forestry
Arizona National Guard
Military Amateur Radio Systems
Arizona Department of Transportation
Arizona Department of Public Safety

I.Purpose, Scope, Situations, and Assumptions

Purpose

- Describe communications resources available to conduct countywide operational and logistics direction and control.
- Establish responsibilities for communication operations.
- Define operating procedures to support county/local government jurisdictions during disasters.

Scope

- The Communications function includes the establishment of fixed radio interoperability sites for emergency response usage, primarily in the Arizona Interagency Radio System, and plans for the establishment of temporary communications in areas affected by an emergency/disaster. Support will include state agency communications, commercially leased communications, and communications services provided by AUXCOMM and other volunteer groups such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES).

- A critical aspect of this function is the development of pre-incident county wide communications protocols, as well as communications plans for specific hazard events requiring multi-agency response.
- Training and exercise programs for all agencies in AIRS usage and the development of Incident Communications Plans for events with no communication's pre-plans are essential to developing and maintaining emergency communications capabilities.

Situations and Assumptions

- The Mohave County Sheriff's Office and Mohave County Emergency Management (MCEM) are jointly responsible for developing, maintaining, and operating emergency communications systems which collect and disseminate information, receive requests for assistance, and coordinate disaster response activities during the activation of the Mohave County Emergency Operations Center (MCEOC) and/or a declared emergency.
- MCEM may assist upon request local jurisdictions in developing, maintaining, and operating emergency communications systems. Assistance will be provided for technical and program development guidance to assure a coordinated and integrated countywide emergency communications system, as well as development of communications plans and training/exercise programs.
- The county will follow the requirements of the National Emergency Communication Plan and will demonstrate compliance as directed under that Plan.

II. Concept of Operations

- Agencies will retain operational control of their communications systems and equipment during emergency operations. They will utilize common radio frequencies preprogrammed into their radios, including AIRS frequencies designated as interoperable channels, for multi-agency response. For large or longer duration incidents, Incident Command will develop an Incident Communications Plan as a component of the Incident Action Plan.
- Cell phones or satellite phones may be utilized in lieu of radios for communications that do not require wide distribution to responders or in cases of poor radio reception.

- Fire Departments typically are dispatched from the Kingman, Lake Havasu City, or Bullhead City Dispatch Centers, which also coordinate mutual aid requests, interagency radio communications, and city law enforcement dispatch. The MCSO Dispatch Center serves as primary dispatch for law enforcement response in the unincorporated county. All centers will interface as needed during the emergency.
- The normal communications flow will be between the MCEOC and County Incident Commanders or City EOC's. The MCEOC in coordination with the MCSO 911 Dispatch Center will serve as Net Control Station for the MCEM controlled communications system. It is the primary interface for state, national, regional, and interstate communications operations.
- All radio communications will follow the requirements of the national communications plan goals, including use of plain language and standard ICS communications forms.
- A Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) has been developed under separate cover to govern priority order of use of interagency communications resources.
- The County TOAD-1 radio interoperability communications van operated by MCEM may be deployed upon request to incident scenes, but initial and most long-term incident interoperable communications will be through pre-programmed agency radios and AIRS or other interoperable frequencies as designated in the TICP.

III. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Organization

- The Mohave County Emergency Communications System (MCECS) is a redundant system employing: HF, VHF and UHF radio in fixed and mobile configurations, including interoperable multi-band suites at Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) sites; ARES; computer technology and landline, cellular and satellite telephone systems.
- The MCECS main control site is in the MCEOC and the adjacent Mohave County Public Works Facility in Kingman. The MCECS also interfaces and serves as an operating station on other state agency, law enforcement, and National Guard communications nets.

- The Mohave County EOC Communications Officer supervises the MCEOC communications site, and the MCSO Dispatch Supervisor oversees the 911 Dispatch Center, both sites being components of MCECS.

Organizational Roles and Assignment of Responsibilities

- **County Government**
 - **Mohave County Emergency Management** will:
 - Develop and maintain primary and alternate communications systems for contact with local jurisdictions, other state agencies, and interstate and national agencies required for mission support.
 - Coordinate with all response agencies the development of a comprehensive countywide emergency communications program, including a Tactical Operations Communications Plan, and provide overall program supervision.
 - Assist other local jurisdictions in developing communications plans and systems that interface with and support the countywide emergency communications system.
 - Coordinate training and communications system exercises to insure reliable statewide emergency communications support.
 - Maintain its communications capabilities to fulfill agency duties under this plan.
 - Maintain support functions for AUXCOMM.
 - **Mohave County Sheriff's Office**
 - Develop emergency communications support plans that provide alternate or supplementary support to the state emergency communications system.
 - Develop and implement internal security procedures.
 - Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.

- Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
- Maintain and support operational readiness of the County's WAX System in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.

○ **Mohave County Public Works**

- Develop and regularly update emergency communications plans to support Road Department and Traffic Control activities and roles during emergency events.
- Develop and implement internal security procedures.
- Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.
- Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
- Maintain capability to access Arizona Interagency Radio System designated tactical frequencies for emergency communications.
- Maintain and support operational readiness of the County's WAX System in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.

○ **Mohave County Department of Public Health**

- Develop and regularly update emergency communications plans to support Public Health Department activities and roles during emergency events.
- Develop and implement internal security procedures.

- Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.
- Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
- Maintain capability to access Arizona Interagency Radio System designated tactical frequencies for emergency communications.
- Maintain and support operational readiness of the County's WAX System in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.

○ **Local Law Enforcement**

- Develop and regularly update emergency communications plans to support agency activities and roles during emergency events.
- Develop and implement internal security procedures.
- Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.
- Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
- Maintain capability to access Arizona Interagency Radio System designated tactical frequencies for emergency communications.
- Maintain and support operational readiness of the County's WAX System in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.

○ **Fire Departments/Districts**

- Develop and regularly update emergency communications plans to support agency activities and roles during emergency events.
- Develop and implement internal security procedures.
- Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.
- Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
- Maintain capability to access Arizona Interagency Radio System designated tactical frequencies for emergency communications.
- Maintain and support operational readiness of the County's WAX System in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.
- **Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)**
 - Develop and regularly update emergency communications plans to support agency activities and roles during emergency events.
 - Develop and implement internal security procedures.
 - Conduct or participate in periodic tests or exercises to ensure responsive and reliable emergency communications support.
 - Coordinate emergency communications support plans with the Mohave County EOC Communications Officer.
 - Maintain its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.
- **Volunteer Agencies**
 - ARES or amateur radio operators designated by MCEM will provide primary or alternate emergency radio communications support.

- AUXCOMM will provide auxiliary communications support during incidents, including staffing of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) radio positions, relaying situational updates, and ensuring continuity of communications when primary systems are degraded or unavailable.
- **State Government**
 - The State Government will implement Essential Support Function (ESF) #2 of the State Response Plan, to provide communications support to county/local jurisdictions. Assistance will be discontinued when local requirements no longer exist.
- **Federal Government**
 - The Federal Government will implement ESF #2 of the Federal Response Plan, to provide communications support to county/local jurisdictions. Assistance will be discontinued when state or local requirements no longer exist.

IV.Direction, Control, and Coordination

- The County Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) will provide an overall network structure and guidance for communications priorities during emergencies.
- On scene communications will be directed by a designated Communications Officer in the Incident Command or Unified Command who will establish a primary interagency talk path early in the incident. For longer term or large-scale incidents, an Incident
- A Communications Plan should be developed as part of the Incident Action Plan, utilizing the required standard ICS forms, and distributed to all response agencies.
- The Dispatch Center for the jurisdiction where the incident occurs will have primary responsibility for dispatch communications during the incident and may request assistance from neighboring dispatch centers for resource coordination and control.

- The Mohave County EOC Communications Officer will maintain a general MCEOC communications plan, develop incident specific plans as needed, and direct the MCEOC communications site during incidents through the Communications Unit of the MCEOC logistics section. The MCSO Dispatch Supervisor will oversee the 911 Dispatch Center, which functions as a companion site to the MCEOC.

V. Information Collection and Dissemination

- First responders assigned to the Incident/Unified Command will report and receive information to or from their designated supervisor, utilizing designated response agency frequencies.
- A designated command frequency will be utilized for information exchange between command level officers.
- Status reports, resource requests and replies, and other information will be exchanged between the Incident/Unified Command and the primary Incident Dispatch via designated frequencies.
- Information and requests, including policy direction, can be exchanged between Incident/Unified Command and the jurisdictional EOC via designated frequency.

VI. Administration, Finance, and Logistics

Administration

- This ESF and the Mohave County Tactical Interagency Communications Plan, in whole or in part, will be implemented for any emergency incident within the county.
- This ESF and the Mohave County Tactical Interagency Communications Plan may be implemented to support national/state/local emergency/disasters. Implementation may require full or partial activation of the MCEOC and/or city EOC's.
- Each Individual agency is responsible for maintaining its communications system readiness to fulfill agency duties under this plan.
- Administration, updates, training, and testing of this plan will be overseen by Mohave County Emergency Management and the Communications

Subcommittee of the Mohave County Local Emergency Planning Committee, in coordination with all response agencies.

Finance

- Each agency is responsible for funding its communications systems and personnel.
- Expenditures for supplies and equipment, personnel, AUXCOMM personnel, fuel, and other items that are borne by the county will be tracked by MCEM and may be eligible for state or federal reimbursement for state requested deployments or disaster declarations.

Logistics

- For Incident/Unified Commands, the Communications Unit will be typically under the Logistics Section, which will be responsible for maintenance, repair, and requests for additional personnel and equipment resources.
- Requests for resources will flow from the Incident/Unified Command to the appropriate city or county EOC for action through its Logistics Section.

VII. Authorities and References

- National Emergency Communications Plan
- Arizona Department of Public Safety Arizona Interagency Radio System protocols
- Mohave County Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
- Mohave County Fire Officers Association WAX Radio System SOP
- National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (Version 2.01)

Appendix

- Alert and Warning