

Illinois Emergency Operations Plan

Annex 30 – Earthquake

Appendix 3 – Communications
Technology

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

August 2021





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Communications Technology
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Appendix 30-X3 - Communications Technology

Primary Agency: Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

Support Agency: Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)
Illinois National Guard (ILNG)
Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Illinois State Police (ISP)
Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)

Support Organizations: None

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. Provide guidance for strategies and operational use to support communications for state agencies and external organizations involved in response, short-term, intermediate and long-term recovery.

B. Scope

1. This appendix is applicable to all state agencies and organizations involved in short, intermediate and long-term recovery under the coordination and management of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
2. This appendix supports the IEOP and incorporates provisions of the National Response Framework (NRF), National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
3. This appendix incorporates and supports policy, procedures and guidance established in the and State of Illinois Tactical Communications Interoperability Plan (TICP).
4. For the purposes of this appendix, telecommunications will be defined as the transmission of information (voice and data) electronically by cable, telephone or wireless with integrated encoding and decoding equipment.

C. Policy



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1. Procedures for utilization, control and use will incorporate operational priorities that include but are not limited to:
 - a) Protection of life;
 - b) Public health and safety;
 - c) Property protection;
 - d) Environmental protection;
 - e) Restoration of essential utilities;
 - f) Restoration of essential program functions, and
 - g) Coordination as appropriate.
2. All state agencies and external organizations activated by the SEOC will adhere to TICP policies, procedures and protocol for interoperable and integrated communications.
3. Laws, rules, regulations and policies of the United States government and agencies involved in communications technology are considered valid and/or applicable within the state.

D. Situation Overview

1. STARCOM21 (SC21) is the statewide interoperable communications platform with operational talk groups for response, short-term, intermediate and long-term recovery.
2. Legacy radio systems serve as a critical, alternate component in the state's interoperability plan.
3. Legacy radio may serve as a tactical communications asset.
4. Statewide interoperable communications are reliant on private sector partnerships and connectivity.

E. Assumptions

1. An incident(s) will occur resulting in the notification, activation, deployment, coordination, implementation and sustainment (NADCIS) of communications equipment and personnel.
2. Impacts to critical infrastructure will directly affect overall



communication capabilities.

3. Dissemination of notifications and warnings, and/or public information will require ad hoc or non-traditional means of communications to reach responders, the public and diverse populations.
4. Local governments will request state assistance to establish and maintain communications, warnings and notifications.
5. The SEOC, supportive state resources and local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) will be operational.
6. State resources will be activated in advance of county and municipal requests for life safety missions and staging.
7. Mutual aid agreements and compacts will be activated to carry out response, short, intermediate and long-term recovery.

II. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. Communications technology support for a disaster is provided by resources of state agencies and external organizations.
2. The SEOC will coordinate communications technology assets and protocol for state agencies and external organizations during initial response, short-term, intermediate and long-term recovery.

B. Organization

1. Direction, Coordination and Control
 - a) State agencies and external organizations retain operational control of communications equipment and systems.
 - b) The IEMA Director, or designee, has the authority to exercise overall coordination of communications systems belonging to the state during declared disasters and SEOC activations.
 - i) The SEOC Communications Coordinator (COMC), or designee, may coordinate use of state communications systems as designated by the IEMA Director.
 - ii) The SEOC COMC or designee may coordinate the use of county or local jurisdiction communication systems when



so authorized or requested.

- c) The SEOC COMC or designee will coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in developing communications plans and systems required for short, intermediate and long-term recovery efforts.
- d) The SEOC COMC is the single point of coordination for multi-jurisdictional interoperable and integrated communications.

2. Coordinating Elements

- a) The SEOC COMC, or designee, will identify communications system needs through/by:
 - i) Prioritizing communications systems and processes;
 - ii) Integrating individual technical response Incident Command System Forms 205(a), 205(t) and supporting documentation;
 - iii) De-conflicting resources (personnel, equipment and/or channels) to maximize utilization and avoid overlap/overuse;
 - iv) Disseminating interoperable communications requirements to forward operations areas and community partners, and
 - v) Recommending and implementing courses of action required to facilitate, restore, or compliment communications capabilities.

3. Federal Coordination

- a) Under a Presidential Declaration of a major disaster or emergency, IEMA will coordinate the inclusion of federal assets into the state telecommunications system.
- b) Direct coordination with federal agencies will occur through appropriate and designated agencies
- c) Communications COM-M or COM-U, along with the SWIC, would work close coordination and cooperation with FEMA's ESF 2 (Communications) to provide effective communication coordination. In addition to special and routine reports, conference calls or video-teleconferences may be necessary to



gain and maintain situational awareness of rapidly developing events and to coordinate for communication assets. IEMA communications would work with FEMA to facilitate:

- i) Understanding and coordinating linkages in which they are involved;
 - ii) Documenting processes and procedures during steady state and activation;
 - iii) Sharing institutional knowledge with other stakeholders involved in coordination, communications, and computer-systems planning, and
 - iv) Providing steps or adjustments to systems and efforts that enable seamless communication with other departments and agencies
- d) When FEMA Regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) deploys to the incident they will have a forward communication vehicle (FCV) from the Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS) with them. The FCV has FEMA land mobile radios, a FEMA National Response Network (NRN) repeater, a FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) radio, and Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) satellite equipment that can be used at an Initial Operating Facility (IOF) or Joint Field Office (JFO) to maintain connectivity during commercial circuit degradation or outages as well as to provide supplemental capacity or to support operations remote from the IOF or JFO. The team is also equipped with a cache of satellite phones to maintain voice connectivity should the terrestrial telephone network become unreliable or overloaded. A cache of portable radios that can be used to communicate with local, state, and tribal responders on statewide radio systems and on federal and national interoperability channels is also available for their use.
- e) The list of MERS and IMAT communication equipment can be found in Tables K-3 and K-4 of Appendix K, FEMA Region V All-Hazards Plan.
- f) A list of Communication Tools and Networks available from FEMA Region V is listed in Table K-1 of Appendix K, FEMA Region V All-Hazards Plan.

C. Notification, Alert and Warning (NAW)



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1. SEOC NAW of SEOC liaisons will be handled in accordance with IEOP Appendix A-1, Notification, Alert and Warning
 2. Primary and support agencies are responsible for internal and support partner NAW.
 3. Notify Public – Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)
- D. Activation
1. The SEOC will provide state support through the activation of identified liaisons in accordance with SEOC Activation Level SOP.
- E. Resource Management and Logistics
1. Resource management and logistics will be carried out in accordance with IEOP Annex 9, Resource Management.
 2. Resource management includes mutual aid agreements and assistance agreements; the use of special federal and state teams; and resource mobilization protocols.
 3. One or more Lines of Effort (LOE) may be implemented by the SEOC for specific strategic action planning for Communications Technology.
 - a) LOEs are responsible for short-term, intermediate and long-term operational planning, coordination and resource allocation.
 - b) As directed by the SEOC Manager, LOE will be coordinated and administratively supported by EMAT.
 - c) LOEs operate as strategic planning and coordinating elements of the SEOC and do not play an operational role.
 - d) Additional agency staff will be assigned to LOE based on the level of activation established by the SEOC.
 - e) Strategic and operational guidance on LOE operations can be found in Appendix Base Plan Appendix 4 -Lines of Effort Coordination and Management.
- F. Reporting requirements
1. The SEOC COMC, or designee, will serve as the coordinating point for interoperable and integrated communications technology management and maintain situational updates, and will develop required intelligence



briefings and provide critical and priority information obtained to stakeholders, key-decision makers and executive officers and the SEOC.

2. As appropriate for the type, scope and magnitude of communications technology requirements, the SEOC COMC, or designee, will report disruptions to potentially affected stakeholders, key decision makers and executive officers.
3. The SEOC COMC, or designee, will coordinate directly with state agency communications representatives and private sector organizations to ensure coordination of communications technology information, situational awareness and intelligence.
4. SEOC agency liaisons and state agency staff in forward operational areas will coordinate use of communications resources to maintain interoperable and integrated systems and networks; establish a single NIMS compliant communications tactical plan; situational updates; develop required intelligence briefings; and provide critical and priority information obtained to key decision makers, executive officers and the SEOC.

G. Implementation requirements

1. Additional telecommunications staff may be present at the SEOC, and may consist of CMS, ICC, telecommunications industry representatives and other organizations deemed necessary.
2. The IEMA Communications Manager will assign resources needed to deploy with the State UAC and where needed within the state to support emergency communications.
3. System Personnel
 - a) Personnel may come from state agencies or external organizations providing communications equipment and system capabilities approved by the SEOC Manager and activated through the SEOC. Authorization will be through Mission Support Team (MST) agreements already executed.
 - b) Specific roles and responsibilities for operable and interoperable communications are defined in the State of Illinois TICP, as amended.
4. System Capabilities and Structure



- a) The state utilizes redundant systems employing HF, VHF Low, VHF High, UHF, 700/800 MHz conventional radio and 700/800MHz Project 25 trunked radio platform (STARCOM21) in fixed and mobile configurations, amateur radio, microwave, satellite, Illinois Century Network (ICN), digital messaging and common carrier telephone/cellular systems.
 - i) The primary IEMA Operations Center is located at 2200 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield IL.
 - ii) The alternate IEMA Operations Center is located at 4800 Rodger Street, Springfield IL.
- b) The statewide emergency communications program consists of multi-platform, redundant capabilities to communicate with national, state, local agencies/jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations.
- c) Specific organizational system capabilities for operable and interoperable communications are defined in the State of Illinois TICP, as amended.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

- 1. Assign a SEOC COMC for coordination and management of operable and interoperable communications upon activation of the SEOC.
 - a) Identify communications resources required to support emergency communications and ensure availability;
 - b) Ensure resources are deployed and activated to support emergency communications, and
 - c) Coordinate the use of communication resources to promote operability and interoperability.
- 2. Maintain operable and interoperable capabilities along with primary, redundant and supportive communications.
 - a) Low Band Radio towers, and
 - b) High Band.
- 3. Utilize mutual aid agreements, service contracts and other non-state



resources to support operable and interoperable communications. These support resources are locally hosted but state deployable and under the direction of the COMC:

- a) Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS);
 - b) Unified Command Post (UCP), and
 - c) Communications Unit (COMU).
 - d) Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM). "AUXCOMM" is the cadre of trained communications volunteers credentialed by a governmental agency, possessing specialized skills that may be called upon to support the Incident Command System during local, regional, state, and national level exercises, events, and incidents. Auxiliary communications are a general term for communications support to emergency management, public safety, public health, NGOs and private entities by volunteers using amateur radio, or other radio resources outside the Public Safety radio services.
4. Maintain portable cache.
 5. Maintain (1) site-on-wheels (SOWs).
 6. Public Alert and Warning Notification.
- B. Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)
1. Serve as initial point-of-contact for state owned and operated telecommunication resources.
 2. Assign a telecommunications coordinator, as appropriate.
 3. Assist with establishment of hotlines and phone banks.
 4. Coordinate with private sector for purchasing or contracting telecommunications equipment and services.
 5. Coordinate with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for restoration of telecommunications infrastructure.
- C. Illinois National Guard (ILNG)
1. Provide HF-SSB communications for secondary capability.



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2. Provide Blue Force Tracker (BFT), global positioning communications system for tertiary capability.
 3. Provide emergency communications equipment and personnel.
- D. Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
1. Maintain Health Alert Network (HAN).
 2. Coordinate notifications, alerts, warnings and requests for aid through the Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System (IPHMAS).
 3. Coordinate public health and medical communications between hospitals and end users.
- E. Illinois State Police (ISP)
1. Maintain operable and interoperable capabilities along with primary, redundant and supportive communications.
 2. Maintain ISP communication centers throughout the state.
 3. Maintain high band base stations network known as Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN).
 4. Maintain three STARCOM21 sites-on-wheels (SOWs).
- F. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
1. Maintain operable and interoperable capabilities along with primary, redundant and supportive communications
 2. Maintain communication centers
 - a) Four 24-hour communication centers
 - b) Nine district communication centers
 3. Maintain a high band and UHF radio system in the Chicago area.
 4. Maintain an emergency command center located in Carbondale equipped with National Interoperable frequencies and satellite communications.
 5. Maintain Mobile Emergency Operations Centers (MEOC) located in Ottawa, Dixon, Peoria, Paris, Springfield and Effingham.
- G. Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT)



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1. Coordinate with CMS /ICC for restoration of telecommunications infrastructure.

H. Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)

1. Coordinate with CMS/DoIT for restoration of telecommunications infrastructure.
2. Coordinate to provide additional telecommunications staff, as needed.

IV. Authorities and References

A. Authorities

1. Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/6[5], 14 and 19), as amended
2. Emergency Telephone Communications (720 ILCS 660/0.01 et seq) , as amended
3. State Police Radio Act (20 ILCS 2615) , as amended
4. IAC Title 77: Public Health, Section 515.400, General Communications, as amended
5. Central Management Services (CMS) Law, 20 ILCS 405/405-1, et seq, as amended
6. Emergency Telephone System Act 50 ILCS 750/0.01-16. , as amended
7. State of Illinois Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, as amended
8. IEMA Operations Center SOPs, as amended

B. References

1. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Regulations, as amended
2. Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP, as amended
3. Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP), as amended
4. Request for Communications Resources process, as amended
5. Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Plan, as amended
6. Public ALERT and Warning Plan, as amended