

ANNEX B

COMMUNICATIONS

PROMULGATION STATEMENT

Annex B: Communications is a guide to how the University maintains communications amongst emergency responders. The Annex is written in support of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and shall be considered an interactive support document to the EOP.

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The University’s Associate Vice President for Safety and Security shall be responsible for annex oversight and coordination with applicable stakeholders. The annex is flexible in that part of the plan, or the entire plan, may be activated based on the specific emergency and decision by University executive management.

This Annex and its supporting contents, are hereby approved, supersedes all previous editions, and effective immediately upon the signing of all signature authorities noted below.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Christopher M. Meyer, Associate Vice President
Office of Safety and Security
Texas A&M University

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This annex outlines additional operational concepts and procedures specific to Texas A&M University as otherwise not stated in Annex B: Communications of the Brazos County Interjurisdictional Emergency Management Plan.

GENERAL

Reliable and interoperable communications systems are essential to obtain the most complete information during emergency situations and to direct and control the resources responding to those situations.

Any one or more communication systems can become disabled. This annex identifies the equipment and methods employed to ensure that all necessary communications are reliably made amongst responders.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

During emergency operations, the incident command post (ICP) or the Community Emergency Operations Center (CEOC), if activated, will serve as the communications center for emergency responders, as well as, the communication hubs as described in Annex A: Warning.

All departments will maintain their existing equipment and procedures for communicating with their field units.

All responding agencies will communicate using common language per the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Communications Equipment

- Telephones, cellular or landline, are the primary means of communications for contacting key emergency responders or departments.
- The 7/800 MHz P25 radios with common digital channels are the primary means of communications for emergency responder communications. As members of the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS), TAMU Public Safety departments on campus have access to a radio with these common digital channels. Local emergency responders from the Cities of Bryan and College Station and Brazos County also have access to radios with common digital channels. TAMU departments that have primary channels on the BVWACS 7/800 MHz P25 radio system are:
 - University Police Department
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Environmental Health and Safety
- The TAMU 800 MHz MotoTrbo radio system is the primary radio system for most Non-Public Safety university departments. Below are TAMU Non-Public Safety

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departments that have access to BVWACS 7/800 MHz P25 radios should an event or incident warrant the need for increased interoperable communications. However, their primary channels are on the TAMU 800 MHz MotoTrbo system.

- Environmental Health and Safety
- SSC Service Solutions / Facilities Services
- Easterwood Airport
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- Transportation Services
- TAMU IT
- Reed Arena
- TEEEX Fire School Medics
- Athletics
- Critical Incident Response Team
- TAMU A&M – Galveston
- All university radios have a set of common channels for interoperability among departments. These channels are:
 - SSC Com Center
 - Event 1
 - Event 2
 - Event 3
 - DISPATCH
- The BVWACS7/800 MHz P25 system and the TAMU 800 MHz MotoTrbo system are patched together at UPD Dispatch allowing radio users to talk between the two systems. The patched channels are:
 - TAMU COOP - 7/800 MHz P25 System
 - DISPATCH - 800 MHz MotoTrbo System
- Other communications means are:
 - Campus wireless network – TAMULink
 - Public Safety LTE Network (FirstNet)
 - Digital wireless devices – text message devices (smart phones)

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- Satellite phones
- Internet
- Government Emergency Telecommunications Service / Wireless Priority Service (GETS / WPS) – A federal program that allows for priority calling for registered individuals during emergencies.

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

TAMU IT

- Manages and maintains radio systems for the campus to include the TAMU 800 MHz MotoTurbo System and the BVWACS 7/800 MHz P25 system.
- Coordinates the programming of university radios with appropriate radio communications channels.
- Oversees the installation and maintenance of cellular nodes and distributed antenna systems (DAS) on campus.
- Serves as the point of contact and coordinates enrollment for the GETS / WPS System.
- Assists in warning the campus community, as needed, via Code Maroon or other notification methods.

All Departments

- All departments should maintain up-to-date list of contact information for emergency response personnel who may be activated during emergencies to include phone numbers and radio ID numbers, as applicable.
- All departments should provide adequate training on radio communications and the radio systems.

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RECORD OF CHANGE

CHANGE NUMBER	DATE OF CHANGE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	CHANGE MADE BY:
Throughout	1/20/2016	Minor grammatical changes and terminology changed throughout. Addition of responsibilities for TAMU IT.	SASE
Throughout	10/2/2018	Minor grammatical changes and updates to lists.	SASE

Note: SASE stands for the Office of Safety & Security.