

ANNEX B

COMMUNICATIONS



STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

STATE OF TEXAS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNEX B
COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

This annex is hereby accepted for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

September 20, 2006
Date

Signature

Larry Olson
Executive Director
Department of Information Resources

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

AGD	Adjutant General's Department
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
ARRL	Amateur Radio Relay League
DDC	Disaster District Committee
DFO	Disaster Field Office
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DIR	Department of Information Resources
DOD	Department of Defense
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GDEM	Governor's Division of Emergency Management
GETS	Government Emergency Telecommunications Service
HAN	Health Alert Network
HF	High Frequency
JFO	Joint Field Office
JOC	Joint Operations Center
MCP	Mobile Command Post
NCS	National Communications System
NRP	National Response Plan
NLETS	National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
NAWAS	National Warning System
NRP	National Response Plan
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PUC	Public Utility Commission
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
REACT	Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams
RRC	Railroad Commission
RRT	Regional Response Team
RoIP	Radio over IP
SERT	State Emergency Response Team
SOC	State Operations Center
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSB	Single Side Band
TDCJ	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
TEEX	Texas Engineering Extension Service
TEWAS	Texas Warning System
TFS	Texas Forest Service
TLETS	Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
TRCIP	Texas Radio Communications Interoperability Plan
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
TxDPS	Texas Department of Public Safety
TxMAS	Texas Multiple Awards Schedules
VOIP	Voice over Internet Protocol

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ANNEX B

COMMUNICATIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to define the organization, operational concepts, responsibilities, and procedures to accomplish state emergency communications requirements in Texas. This annex is applicable to all locations and to all agencies, organizations, and personnel with communications emergency support function (ESF) responsibilities. For emergency communications resources and/or services, see the appendices which list emergency communication actions, agency resources, and support agencies.

II. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

Provided below are the major authority and reference documents related to the implementation of this emergency management plan for state communications (also see Basic Plan, Section 1).

A. STATE

1. The Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2005-2010 serves as a high-level road map for our homeland security efforts over the next five years. The Plan is aligned with the National Strategy for Homeland Security and dovetails with the national objectives of the Department of Homeland Security.
2. The State Emergency Management Plan is a comprehensive emergency management plan that describes how the State will mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of hazards to public health and safety, including natural disasters, technological accidents, homeland security threats, and other emergency situations.
3. The Texas Radio Communications Interoperability Plan (TRCIP) addresses radio interoperability among different organizations.

B. FEDERAL

1. Communications Emergency Support Function (ESF) and other federal ESFs are outlined in the National Response Plan (NRP).
2. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a template for cooperation among different levels of government during emergencies.
3. The Nationwide Plan Review is an assessment of the status of catastrophic planning with recommendations for strengthening federal, state, and local plans.

4. The National Communications System (NCS) helps exercise telecommunications functions and responsibilities and coordinate emergency preparedness communications for the Federal government.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

This annex uses National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Response Plan (NRP) policies, procedures, and protocols in its implementation. This includes the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), networks, technology, and more specifically, the use of “a common communications plan and interoperable communications processes and architectures”. Communications systems must be designed to improve interoperability between all levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. The current Texas Radio Communications Interoperability Plan (TRCIP) will help meet this requirement as it is implemented through its six levels of interoperability.

B. STATE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE POLICY

In accordance with this plan, state emergency support and assistance, if required, will be provided as quickly and as efficiently as feasible. Consistent with priority of need, attempts to provide assistance, when practical, will be as outlined in Section IV.E of Annex N, Direction and Control. This will provide the State with an effective means to provide emergency assistance in a timely and cost-effective manner. The decision to expend state funds to provide support and assistance will be made only after consideration of both priority of need and cost to the State. However, in situations where lives and property are immediately threatened, the most rapid means of response will be taken.

C. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

1. Based on situational requirements, Emergency Management Council member agencies may provide staff to the State Operations Center (SOC), Joint Field Office (JFO), affected Disaster District Committee (DDC) Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and field-deployed incident command posts. Representatives may serve in both a primary and/or support agency role for several ESF groups. To facilitate accomplishment of assigned responsibilities, the number of agency personnel operating from each location will be based on operational requirements and coordinated with the appropriate primary agency.
2. Agency representatives must know how to request, deploy, and account for commitment of assets or services at their disposal.

D. COORDINATING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

1. The SOC will notify Department of Information Resources (DIR) when state level coordination of telecommunications is needed. The DIR SOC contact person(s) will establish contact with the supporting state agencies. DIR is not

the primary entity responsible for restoring private sector telecommunications networks. However, when appropriate, DIR will:

- a. Assist in facilitating deployment of state communications equipment and resources to the disaster area.
 - b. Assist in facilitating deployment of trained communications operators and technicians to support the effort.
 - c. Provide emergency purchasing procedures and personnel for state communications equipment and resources.
 - d. Act as a liaison with the state support agencies' representatives.
 - e. Add bandwidth needed to support surge conditions on the 2-1-1 network.
2. All support agency representatives must be aware of their organization's abilities to provide telecommunications equipment and personnel and know their respective standard operating procedures (SOPs) for response and recovery efforts.
 3. The SOC will ensure that communications among the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense (DOD), and state and local agencies are activated and coordinated.
 4. DIR will post appropriate official announcements for citizens and businesses concerning emergency response efforts from the Office of the Governor on the TexasOnline Emergency Portal.

E. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN THE DISASTER AREA

1. Telecommunications service providers have the responsibility to notify the state of the status of their facilities. The Regional Response Team (RRT), taking over the role formerly handled by SERT, will be in a supporting role with PUC for damage assessments. The RRT will assess the total communications damage picture including responders and other command & control communications required to coordinate the disaster response. The PUC will use all available damage assessments to determine actions needed for commercial telecommunications companies to restore services within the affected area(s).
2. Support agencies, through coordination with DIR, will identify telecommunications facilities outside affected areas that may be deployed for support.
3. Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) radio-equipped patrol vehicles will be dispatched to a disaster area to help determine the status of telecommunications facilities. Troopers will perform a preliminary damage assessment of the disaster area and report general information concerning

lines down, power outages, and buildings damaged. If radio and telecommunications contact cannot be established with a police department or sheriff's office, TxDPS will dispatch a patrol vehicle to assess the situation.

4. TxDPS will assist the assessment and reporting efforts using mobile telephones, patrol, command post vans, a communications trailer, satellite, the DPS Radio System, the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) and the Texas Warning System (TEWAS).
5. The National Communications System (NCS) plans for and provides emergency preparedness communications for the Federal government under all circumstances, including crisis or emergency.

F. IDENTIFICATION AND AUGMENTATION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

1. The DIR will work with the State SOC and the support agencies to coordinate rapid acquisition and deployment of additional emergency communications within affected areas.
2. Mobile communications support will be provided by various support agencies including the Public Utility Commission (PUC), the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas Forest Service (TFS), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Texas Railroad Commission (RRC), TxDPS, and Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). Mobile units can be strategically located throughout the state to provide emergency communications.
3. Each communications ESF member agency will maintain a list of equipment and personnel that can be used to support disaster response and recovery operations. Equipment and personnel will be provided in accordance with the agencies' SOPs.
4. If emergency procurement of additional communications resources is needed, DIR will manage the procurements through their Cooperative Contract Program for rapid acquisition and deployment of the resources.
5. TxDPS will dispatch radio-equipped patrol vehicles to the area to establish or augment emergency communications. They also operate a fleet of motor home-type vehicles that are equipped with radios, antenna masts, and self-contained power supply units for operation as mobile command posts. These vehicles will be dispatched to a disaster area to serve as field operations command and control centers, and to provide a communications link to the DPS communications system. Troopers and communications will be dispatched with the equipment needed to operate the mobile command posts. Other agency personnel working the disaster scene can use these facilities. TxDPS also operates a mobile communications center that can be dispatched from Austin to any part of the state.
6. As a supplement to state agency communications, the State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a volunteer program managed by GDEM to provide backup communications for emergency operations. The

SOC is supported by RACES high frequency (HF) equipment that communicates with RACES stations at other state agency locations or local SOCs.

7. TxDOT's emergency radio network is an HF voice system interconnecting the TxDOT headquarters with its district offices. This HF radio system shares frequencies with the Adjutant General's Department on a non-interference basis. The State SOC, in coordination with TxDOT, may enter this network to communicate with TxDOT personnel and manually relay communications to the DDC EOCs.
8. TEEX has emergency response personnel stations in five areas of the state. They have mobile and satellite telephones and PC computer support that are deployable within six (6) hours.
9. The Railroad Commission (RRC), TxDOT and TFS can provide support with line-of-sight radio stations that are normally staffed eight hours per day. In an emergency, several selected radio stations from these agencies would go to the 24 hour-per-day operation. High frequency radio stations supporting interconnectivity between DDC EOCs and the SOC are provided by TxDPs, TxDOT, and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM).

G. STATUS REPORTING

1. DIR, coordinating with support agencies, will apprise of actual and planned actions to restore state government telecommunications capabilities and service, including estimated completion times.
2. The support organizations that have been activated to provide communications assets will confirm when the assets have been prepared for movement and will report to DIR at esf2@dir.state.tx.us when they have been deployed and become operational.
3. The PUC will monitor the status of plans and actions of commercial telecommunications companies to restore service within the affected area(s), and will report the status to DIR at esf2@dir.state.tx.us and to GDEM.
4. Each support agency providing telecommunications support services and equipment must maintain an audit trail for federal reimbursement purposes. Audit instructions must be included in their SOPs.
5. www.texasonline.com has an "Emergency Preparedness" link to the Texas Emergency Portal, which has information and services including storm preparations, special needs assistance, evacuation assistance, and accessing government resources. The Emergency Portal will be the official site for content related to current emergencies. Agencies that wish to add such content may do so through the Governor's Office of Communications (512-463-1826).

H. TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES FOR DIRECTION AND CONTROL FACILITIES

TxDPS operates 24-hour communications facilities and the Disaster District EOCs. These facilities are equipped with telephones, telecommunications systems (TLETS and National Law Enforcement Telecommunication System [NLETS]), emergency warning systems (TEWAS and National Warning System [NAWAS]), and a VHF high band radio system with mobile repeaters. TxDPS also operates mobile command posts and a mobile communications center. All of these systems are capable of maintaining communications among personnel at a disaster site, the DDC, and the SOC.

I. COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING SYSTEMS

The ESFs for the Direction and Control, Communications, and Warning functions depend on communication between key decision-makers and responsible facilities. The primary state emergency communications system is operated by the TxDPS and provides statewide linkage between EOCs and the SOC. The system also serves as the State's primary warning system and provides statewide connectivity between local and state-level warning points and centers. Detailed discussions concerning these systems are provided in Annex A, Warning.

J. MULTIPLE ESF OPERATIONS

This plan provides for deployment of appropriate resources from multiple ESFs during response and recovery operations as a standard practice. Requests for communications support are expected to occur routinely during most significant emergency response and recovery operations regardless of the type of incident, or which ESFs are involved. Annex W, Military Support, contains more information about interactions between the Communications ESF and the Military Support ESF involving the Adjutant General's Department.

Other ESFs that support the Communications ESF are:

- a. Warning Function – With as the primary agency, this ESF is responsible for the rapid dissemination of essential information related to emergency incidents and situations affecting public safety, and to affected local governments and state agencies/organizations around the State. See Annex A for more information.
- b. Direction and Control Function – With as the primary agency, this ESF is responsible for coordinating the comprehensive mobilization and employment of appropriate resources to accomplish state emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation requirements. See Annex N for more information.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

ESF groups identified in the State Emergency Management Plan comprise personnel and resources from several state agencies/organizations. Each group is directed by a primary agency selected on the basis of its authority and capability in that particular functional area. The other agencies and organizations within the group are designated to provide support based on their ability to lend equipment, personnel, and expertise to the Communications function. The Communications ESF group comprises the organizations listed in Appendix 1 of this Annex.

B. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. General

All organizations assigned to the Communications ESF are responsible for the following:

- a. Designating and training their representatives to serve as group members, and ensuring that appropriate Action Guides and SOPs are developed and maintained.
- b. Identifying staffing requirements and maintaining current notification procedures to ensure appropriate trained agency personnel are available for extended emergency duty in the SOC and DDC EOCs, and as needed, the JFO and field command posts.
- c. Developing and maintaining procedures to ensure that a current inventory of agency resources and contact lists is available.
- d. Developing and maintaining procedures for identification, location, commitment, deployment, and accountability of agency emergency support resources.
- e. Providing personnel, equipment, and other assistance to support emergency response and recovery operations.
- f. Providing situational and operational status reports in accordance with existing procedures and/or as requested by the primary agency.

2. Primary Agency

The Primary Agency for communications is DIR. DIR is responsible for state-level coordination of assets and services and will accomplish the following:

- a. Identify and coordinate ESF staffing requirements appropriate to the emergency situation.

- b. Process requests for state communications assistance by coordinating support recommendations from appropriate agencies, and by presenting the most feasible recommendations to the designated Direction and Control authority for possible mission assignment.
- c. Collect information from support agencies and provide reports concerning emergency support operations in accordance with applicable procedures.
- d. Develop, maintain, and distribute this Annex, appropriate SOPs, and the Communications Action Guide.

3. Support Agencies/Organizations

a. General

All Communications ESF members shall be aware of their parent organizations' capabilities in providing assistance and support, and prepared to provide support recommendations to DIR representatives. They should be prepared to respond to mission assignments from GDEM for the deployment of assets owned or leased by their organizations to support the response and recovery effort. Some agencies will provide agency personnel and/or equipment, while other agencies will work with response agencies or commercial organizations to supply or restore services. The support organizations' SOPs should address an audit trail of telecommunications support. A summary of ESF support agencies and resources is provided in Appendix 3 of this Annex.

b. General Land Office (GLO)

Provide mobile command vehicles with communications equipment in coastal areas, as needed.

c. Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM)

1) As a supplement to state agency emergency communications, manage the State RACES program.

1) Provide satellite phones as needed.

2) As a supplement to state agency emergency communications, manage the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS).

d. Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)

1) Assess communications damage from Austin.

2) Monitor the progress of telecommunications companies toward restoring service within the affected area(s).

e. Railroad Commission (RRC)

Provide mobile communications support.

f. Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

Provide radio support, if available and not previously committed to other missions.

g. Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

1) Help identify and augment emergency communications deployed to appropriate locations. DSHS has communications assets, including mobile communications support, available at various locations around the state.

2) Administer the Texas Health Alert Network (HAN), a collaboration between DSHS and local health officials. Contact information is maintained by the SOC. More information about HAN can be found at: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/comprep/han.shtm/>

h. Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)

1) Dispatch radio equipped patrol vehicles to a disaster area to help determine the status of telecommunications facilities. Troopers will perform preliminary damage assessment of the disaster area. Specifically, if contact cannot be established with a police department or sheriff's office, TxDPS will dispatch a patrol vehicle to assess the situation.

2) Help in assessment and reporting using mobile telephones, patrol vehicles, command post vans, a communications trailer, satellite phones, the DPS radio systems, TEWAS, and TLETS.

3) Provide 24-hour emergency radio support.

4) Dispatch radio equipped patrol vehicles to the affected area to establish or augment emergency communications.

5) Operate mobile command posts. These vehicles will be dispatched to a disaster area to serve as field operations command and control centers and provide a communications link to the DPS communications system.

6) Operate the mobile communications center.

7) Assist the Regional Response Team (RRT) with communications needs.

- i. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
 - 1) Provide mobile communications support.
 - 2) Operate the TxDOT emergency radio network.
 - 3) Provide 24-hour emergency radio support.
- j. Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
Provide mobile and satellite telephones and PC computer support.
- k. Texas Forest Service
Provide mobile communications support.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Direction and Control of emergency response and recovery operations within Texas is the responsibility of GDEM and will be exercised in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan. A DIR staff member will serve as the primary agency representative and will coordinate Communications ESF activities within the SOC. All requests for telecommunications support that cannot be resolved by the DDC will be forwarded to the Communications ESF at the SOC.

VI. EMERGENCY RESPONSE LEVEL/ACTION GUIDES

See the State Emergency Management Plan, Section VII, for a list of the different emergency response levels and the kinds of activities that characterize each level. Appendix 2 of this annex contains a Communications Action Guide which outlines actions ESF members need to take at each emergency response level to ensure the group is prepared to respond and support emergency operations.

VII. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. LINES OF SUCCESSION

Lines of succession for personnel with emergency management responsibilities will be in accordance with existing policies and required emergency management standard operating procedures (SOPs) of each agency/organization.

B. TRAINING

Primary and support agencies will ensure their respective personnel are trained and prepared to operate in the event regular agency members are absent. They will identify alternate or backup personnel, ensure these individuals understand the lines of succession, pre-delegated authorities, and task responsibilities of their individual agencies, and ensure appropriate procedures and Action Guides contain enough detail for alternate/backup personnel to use them.

C. RECORDS

Primary and support agencies will ensure that all records necessary for emergency management operations are readily available to each member agency in an emergency and that these records are duplicated at other location(s) in the event the primary records are destroyed.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

A. SUPPORT

Requests for emergency assistance will be resolved at the lowest-level Direction and Control facility that can respond appropriately. Unresolved assistance requests will normally flow upward from cities to the county, and if unresolved at the county level, continues upward to the responsible DDC, to the SOC, and as required, to other states or the federal government for support.

B. AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or otherwise use of equipment and services will be in accordance with the provision of state law and procedures. A Proclamation of a State Disaster issued by the Governor may suspend selected rules and regulations affecting support operations. The primary agency will determine the specific impact of the situation and advise ESF group members accordingly.

C. STATUS REPORTS

The primary agency will maintain status of all outstanding assistance requests and unresolved ESF-related issues. The primary agency will summarize this information in periodic status reports and submit them in accordance with applicable operating procedures.

D. EXPENDITURES AND RECORD KEEPING

1. Each agency is responsible for establishing administrative controls necessary to manage the expenditure of funds and to provide reasonable accountability and justification for federal reimbursement in accordance with the established guidelines.
2. The first source of funds for expenditures by state agencies in response to an emergency, imminent disaster, or recovery from a catastrophic incident, will be from funds regularly appropriated by the Legislature.
3. In accordance with established procedures, state agencies may seek financial assistance from the Disaster Contingency Fund.

E. CRITIQUES

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency event or exercise, the primary agency representatives will conduct a critique of the group activities during the event or exercise. Support agencies will contribute to this critique. The primary agency representative will consolidate all input into a final written report and submit it to the Chief of GDEM.

IX. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Director of DIR is the approving authority for this annex and is responsible for its approval and implementation.

B. ANNEX PROCESS RESPONSIBILITIES

The designated Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for DIR is responsible for development, maintenance, and distribution of this annex. The DIR EMC, in conjunction with the Chief of GDEM, is also responsible for conducting a biennial review, coordinating all review and revision efforts, and incorporating information learned from exercises and actual events into this annex.

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX B
COMMUNICATIONS ESF ORGANIZATIONS

Primary Agency: Department of Information Resources

Support Agencies: General Land Office
Texas Building and Procurement Commission
Adjutant General's Department
Governor's Division of Emergency Management
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Railroad Commission of Texas
Department of Criminal Justice
Department of State Health Services
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Engineering Extension Service
Texas Forest Service

APPENDIX 2 TO ANNEX B
COMMUNICATION ESF ACTION GUIDE

<u>Response Level</u>	<u>Hazard</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Action</u>
IV	Normal Conditions	DIR	*
III	Increased Response Conditions	DIR	*
II	Escalated Response Conditions	DIR	*
I	Emergency Conditions	All Communication ESF Agencies	*

*See Action Guide below for details on actions taken for each response level.

1. RESPONSE LEVEL IV - NORMAL CONDITIONS

- a. Review, evaluate, and update operating procedures for accomplishing Communications ESF responsibilities addressed in the State Plan.
- b. Review and update contact/call lists to ensure ability to communicate with individuals and locations.
- c. Train personnel to ensure understanding of ESF assignments and mission requirements.
- d. Update agency resource information, determine resource availability for commitment and deployment, and review procedures for requesting required resources.
- e. Manage collaborative contracts for purchase of goods and services.

2. RESPONSE LEVEL III - INCREASED READINESS CONDITIONS

- a. Review, evaluate, and update appropriate plans and procedures to ensure ability to meet anticipated challenges of specific hazard.
- b. Distribute Communications ESF procedures.
- c. Review and update contact/call lists.
- d. Update agency resource information in Annex B.
- e. Identify shortfalls concerning personnel, resources, and other capability affecting Communications ESF responsibilities.

- f. Obtain approval for any changes to Annex B.

3. RESPONSE LEVEL II - ESCALATED RESPONSE CONDITIONS

- a. Implement notification procedures and ensure appropriate key personnel are provided with pertinent information concerning situation, tasks and/or deployment requirements.
- b. Determine communication requirements based on available information from incident commanders, Disaster District, and SOC.
- c. Provide situational and administrative reports as required.
- d. Review procedures for reporting status of mission assignments with focus on resources committed and expenditures.

4. RESPONSE LEVEL I - EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

- a. Implement actions to accomplish mission assignments.
- b. Report status of mission assignments and committed resources.
- c. Gather and analyze situation information and submit status reports to SOC.

APPENDIX 3 TO ANNEX B

COMMUNICATIONS ESF RESOURCE SUMMARY

This section lists communications resources owned by support agencies that may be called to help meet the communications needs of disaster response and recovery efforts. *Assets critical to support initial response efforts and agency contact information are listed at the end of the printed version of this document in the SOC.*

Department of Information Resources (DIR)

Equipment:

- GPS units

Personnel:

- In-house and contracted voice and data installation and support staff

Other Applicable Resources:

- Emergency orders for voice and data circuits to support shelters and medical facilities.
- Ability to add bandwidth needed to support surge conditions on the 2-1-1 network.
- Administers texasonline.com

General Land Office (GLO)

Equipment:

- Mobile Command Posts (MCPs) - to be used for limited communication and office space. These include various radios, cell phones, and a generator.
- Yaseu hand held radios with UHF and VHF capability. They have been set up for Marine Band use as well. This is the only radio communication system available in Port Lavaca (described below).
- Bendix King radios with ground-to-air capability. Limited range, and to be used in very controlled situations only, as they can interfere with normal commercial air traffic.
- Nextel Direct Connect: the primary daily system in Regions 2, 3, & 4, with one radio in Regions 1 & 5 and 2 in Austin for emergency or special operations, as directed.
- Sprint PCS Air Cards: provide Internet access from laptops in the field within Sprint cellular tower range.
- GPS - Garmin V basic units.
- REGION 1: Operates 800MHz radios on the Neches Chiefs Association system, which is managed by Kay Electronics of Beaumont and Port Arthur (409) 842-1776. The office has one NEXTEL Direct Connect radio listed as Nederland 1. Each RO is also equipped with a cellular phone.
- REGION 2: Nextel "Direct Connect" digital radio system and Nextel cellular phone service. Contact Nextel, in Austin, (512) 848-4825.*
- REGION 3: Port Lavaca uses handheld 4 and one base station VHF radios linked through a local net of towers provided by A&B Communications of Corpus Christi.

Additional radios can be leased in an emergency. The office has one NEXTEL Direct Connect radio listed as Port Lavaca 1.

- Corpus Christi: Nextel "Direct Connect" digital radio system and Nextel cellular phone service. Contact Nextel, in Austin, (361) 438-2785.*
- Brownsville: Nextel "Direct Connect" digital radio system. Contact Nextel, in Austin, (361) 438-2785.* Each RO is also equipped with a cellular phone.

Personnel:

- Personnel to provide training and support for MCPs.

Other Applicable Resources:

- Communications Service Contract: the Oil Spill Division has a service contract with Able Communications Co., Inc, which can provide extended capability (including additional radios, area coverage, and satellite systems), technical expertise, and repair. Phone 800-225-3184. POC is Russell Todish.

*Contact the Nextel offices only if you cannot contact the division communication program director in Austin. Nextel Customer Service: 888-566-6111

Adjutant General's Department (AGD)

Equipment:

- Incident Site Interim Satellite Communications System (ISISCS)
- 2 tractor/trailers. (Not on GDEM list)

Personnel:

- Specialists to man the ISISCS

Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM)

- The SOC maintains a state-of-the-art facility and electronic equipment for 24-hour direction and control communications capabilities. This includes volunteer HF radio using the State's RACES program, UHF/VHF radio, and satellite phone capabilities.

Public Utility Commission (PUC)

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will assess communications damage statewide from Austin and determine actions needed for commercial telecommunications companies to restore services within the affected area(s). The PUC will notify the involved Disaster District Committees (DDCs) of these assessments.

Railroad Commission (RRC)

Equipment:

- Coastline, Houston, and Austin - Cell phones in all state vehicles.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Equipment:

- HF radio network

- Satellite Phones
- VHF/700-800MHz (P25/analog-digital) radios (handhelds) in Austin, Houston, Harlingen, Temple, El Paso, Lubbock, Dallas, San Antonio and Tyler offices.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

Equipment:

- Radio communication system composed of repeaters, bases, mobiles, and portables located at units across the state. The equipment operates on VHF and UHF frequencies ranging from 150 MHz to 450 MHz. Transmitter power ranges from 30 – 120 watts for mobiles, 2 – 6 watts for portables, 40 – 350 watts for base stations, and 25 – 125 watts for repeaters. TDCJ currently uses 49 VHF channels and 10 UHF channels to conduct communications throughout the state.

Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)

Equipment:

- 24-hour communications facilities at the DDC EOC include telephones, TLETS, NLETS, TEWAS, NAWAS, and statewide computer networking systems (AIS).
- VHF high band radio system with mobile repeaters.
- HG radio system (OPSECURE).
- Mobile repeaters (car-to-car and car-to-base).
- Portable (hand-held) radios.
- Regional motor home style vehicles (25') equipped with radios and antenna masts.
- Portable satellite telephone system (12 volt power).

Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)

Equipment:

- High Frequency Single Side Band Emergency Radio System (HF SSB) voice radios
- VHF Highband (150MHz) frequency range repeaters, mobiles and portables
- Fixed base satellite phone systems installed in all coastal district offices as well as Austin Maintenance SOC. Portable satellite phone handsets deployed to all coastal districts as well as others.
- 2 portable repeaters with 40-foot antenna masts, capable of analog and digital (P-25) that are programmed for VHF Highband (150 MHz) use.
- 25 Icom F-50 (analog) hand-held radios with re-chargeable and AA battery packs in a "Jump Kit" that are programmed with TxDOT frequencies, Interoperability Channels and a few other select channels.
- 2 portable base/control stations for use with portable repeaters programmed with TxDOT frequencies, Interoperability Channels and a few other selected channels.
- Portable Radio over IP (RoIP) JPS ACU system for linking of distant radios over IP/Internet LAN/WAN system.
- Link Communications Interoperability Communications System for Cross-Banding of systems and frequency platforms.
- Radio Operations Suburban with Mobile HF SSB, Lowband, VHF Highband, UHF, 700/800 MHz (Travis/Austin, Harris County S.O. and other capabilities),

900 MHZ LCRA, mobile ACU-M Interoperability System, Satellite Phone and Cellular Phone installed as communications command vehicle. Also has Garmin GPS system.

Personnel:

- 25 Radio Coordinators/Technicians located around state.

Other Applicable Resources:

- Texas Interoperability Channel Plan VHF Highband (150 MHz) capabilities in all Section Maintenance and Assistant Maintenance Supervisors in all districts.
- Can provide various levels of Lowband (47 MHz) frequency communications in all districts except Yoakum and Paris.
- Houston District uses the Harris County Sheriffs Office 800 MHz Trunk System which covers the entire district.
- Austin District uses a mix of Lowband and the LCRA 900 MHz Trunk System.
- Maintenance Division SOC located at 150 Riverside in Austin, equipped with teleconference capabilities, computers, VHF radio for local communications and a HF SSB radio for communications with the district offices.
- Can provide 24-hour emergency radio support with agreement by affected district engineer(s).

Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)

Equipment:

- Mobile command post
- Cellular telephones (only a few)

Personnel:

- Trained specialists in communications stationed in College Station, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Lubbock, deployable with six hours of activation via ground or air transportation.

Texas Forest Service (TFS)

Equipment:

- Cache of 50 high band VHF portables (wide band only)
- 2 portable repeaters
- 10 Aircraft VHF (VICTOR) portables
- Portable (4) /mobile (25) private satellite radio system
- Two mobile communication centers, bus and motor home – VHF high band range primary.

Personnel:

- Two Communications techs capable of setting up and maintaining radio, telephone, and networked computer systems in the field. Availability and use of these resources are at the discretion of TFS Forest Resource Protection.

Other Applicable Resources:

- All vehicles equipped with high band VHF Mobiles (narrow band capable).

- All Field Personnel equipped with high band VHF portables (narrow band capable)

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

Equipment:

- Local and state wide VHF(146 MHz) / UHF (440 MHz) repeater systems available for use by organized and trained Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups in most Texas counties and cities for conducting voice and data based communications as needed for served agencies.
- ARES operators have repeaters, base, mobile and hand-held radios and other assets that can be deployed into the field on short notice for a wide variety of communication needs.
- Some ARES groups have mobile communications trailers and vehicles.

Other Applicable Resources:

- High Frequency Single Side Band (HF SSB) voice and data communications capabilities across the state and nationwide via organized networks and operators for handling of emergency, priority and routine messages for served agencies.

Armadillo Intertie System

Equipment:

- Field deployable Radio over IP (RoIP) systems that allow radio communications over an Internet connection. Can be deployed where an IP Internet connection can be obtained.

Personnel:

- Over 250 members with amateur radio licenses. Membership is spread throughout the state. Members also have assets of other various amateur radio modes and equipment as well as the repeater system

Other Applicable Resources:

- Networked Amateur Radio UHF (440 MHz) repeater system that covers most of the State of Texas. See www.armadillo.org for coverage map of areas served.

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT)

Equipment:

- CB Radios
- UHF (460 MHz) radio systems
- Cellular phones.