

Appendix

Communications Annex

What to Do Why to Do It

- I. **LISTEN.**
 - a. To make sure your transmission won't interfere with another communication.
 - b. To be aware of other things going on.
- II. **THINK** about what you will say before you transmit.
 - a. To communicate your idea effectively.
 - b. To use only the air time needed and no more.
- III. **MAKE THE CALL.**

Give:

 - a. The call sign or identification of the station called TO BE CLEAR.
 - b. The words "THIS IS." TO BE UNDERSTOOD RELIABLY ON THE FIRST CALL
 - c. The call sign of identification of the calling station. TO USE A PROCEDURE THAT IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED

Phonetic Alphabet

Figure 39 – Phonetic Alphabet

A–alpha (AL fah)	N–november (no VEM ber)
B–bravo (BRAH voh)	O–oscar (OSS car)
C–charlie (CHAR lee)	P–papa (pah PAH)
D–delta (DELL tah)	Q–quebec (keh BECK)
E–echo (ECK oh)	R–romeo (ROW me oh)
F–foxtrot (FOKS trot)	S–sierra (SEE air rah)
G–golf (GOLF)	T–tango (TANG go)
H–hotel (HOH tell)	U–uniform (YOU nee form)
I–india (IN dee ah)	V–victor (VIK tah)

J–juliet (JEW lee ett)	W–whiskey (WISS key)
K–kilo (KEY low)	X–x-ray (ECKS ray)
L–lima (LEE mah	Y–yankee (YANG key)
M–mike (MIKE)	Z–zulu (ZOO loo)

On-Site Emergency Signaling Procedures

Effective emergency signaling procedures are essential for the safe operation of task force personnel operating at a disaster site. These signals must be clear and universally understood by all task force personnel. Air horns or other appropriate hailing devices shall be used to sound the appropriate signals as follows:

- Cease Operation/All Quiet 1 long blast (3 seconds)
- Evacuate the Area 3 short blasts (1 second each)
- Resume Operations 1 long and 1 short blast

Radio Communications Guidelines

Radio Communications Guidelines are derived from the Cooperative Agreements for Use of Radio Frequencies between fire service agencies and the Department of Management Services of Florida allowing for mutual use of radio frequencies during mutual aid efforts.

This document design is to assist agencies on choosing radio equipment to procure, receive, or render assistance on a multi-agency incident.

Listed below are some of the systems currently deployed around the State:

- Florida Interoperability Network (FIN)

- Mutual Aid Channel Build out (Statewide)
- Emergency Deployable Interoperable Communications System (EDICS)
- Emergency Deployable Wide Area Remote Data System (EDWARDS)
- Mobile Trunked Radio Systems
- Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC)
- Mobile Command Post Standardization
- TRP1000
- Mobile Command Posts
- Radio Caches

AVAILABLE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND FREQUENCIES

Florida Fire Mutual Aid (First Priority)

Statewide Florida Forest Service VHF High band assigned frequencies. Note that the MARC Units (see below) maintain the same frequencies on their mobile units.

Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS)

Florida's Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) is a single, unified radio network that meets the radio voice communications needs of state law enforcement officers and other participating agencies throughout the state. SLERS is an 800/700 (aircraft) MHz system consisting of 200 microwave sites, RF multi-sites, and RF simulcast sites. The SLERS all-digital radio network covers over 60,000 square miles (including 25 miles offshore) with 98% mobile coverage and portable coverage in selected areas.

EDICS / EDWARDS SYSTEMS

There are nine (9) Emergency Deployable Interoperable Communications Systems (EDICS) around the State. Seven of these units are strategically deployed throughout the seven RDSTF regions hosted by local public safety agencies. Two EDICS units are housed in Tallahassee, one with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and the other with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. EDICS units are housed in trailers, which utilize a tow vehicle for transportation to a scene. EDICS units are self-contained with generator powered, air conditioning, and a diesel fuel tank.

EDICS units contain collapsible towers and ACU-1000 technology with multi-band radio equipment housed in MIL-STD transportable cases. EDICS units are utilized to bridge systems together at locations where responders are using incompatible radio equipment. EDICS units have a data companion system package referred to as the Emergency Deployable Wide Area Remote Data System (EDWARDS). EDWARDS provides satellite based internet access utilizing a MESH Network configuration and voice over internet protocol telephone capability. These services can be provided to response personnel and command post locations at the scene of an incident or event using multiple transportable suitcase units.

EDICS / EDWARDS Systems are assigned to the following:

Figure 4o – EDICS/EDWARDS Systems

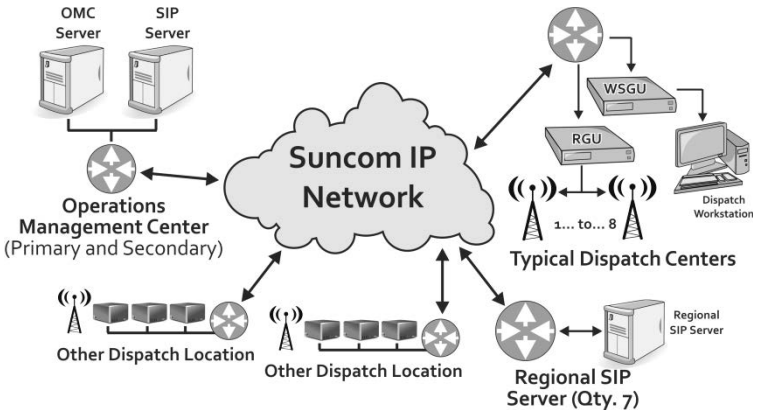
STATE HQ	FL Division of Emergency Management Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Region 1	Walton County Emergency Management
Region 2	Wakulla Co. Emergency Management & Fire Rescue
Region 3	Alachua County Sheriff’s Office
Region 4	Hernando County
Region 5	St. Lucie County Public Safety & Communications
Region 6	Lee County Emergency Management
Region 7	Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office

Florida Interoperability Network (FIN)

The Florida Interoperability Network (FIN) is a full time statewide gateway solution, and places over 100 public safety communications centers on a common network. The system is used multiple times every day to patch public safety agencies together. There is no requirement to “deploy” this system, and can be accessed through all primary PSAPs and across all nine EDICS/EDWARDS deployable platforms. FIN offers four main functions:

- Full duplex intercom type connection between two communications centers.
- Full duplex conferencing connection between up to eight communications centers.
- Remote access to radio resources throughout the state.

- Ability to bridge radio resources together throughout the state. Radio resources consist of base station/repeater sites, radio console connections, and RF control stations.

Figure 41 – Radio Resources

There are eight MARC Systems in the State. Each individual unit consists of a 100-foot mobile crank up tower, a built-in VHF repeater (Forestry Alpha) and a UHF Med 8 repeater. Ten VHF mobile units, sixty-four VHF portable units, a VHF and UHF base station. These radios are preprogrammed with local and State frequencies. The units contain a 10Kw diesel generator and are completely self-contained.

They also contain preset deployment plans that are available for review on request from the DSFM or the FFCA State Disaster Coordinator. The current locations of the units are:

- #1 Ocean City Wright
- #2 Tallahassee FD
- #3 Alachua FR
- #4 Hillsborough FR
- #5 Winter Park FR
- #6 Lehigh Acres FCD
- #7N Martin FR
- #7S Tamarac FR

Requests or questions on deployment or use of the towers must go through the Florida State Fire Marshal or the FFCA State Disaster Coordinator.

Mobilizing, Deploying and Recovery of Communications Assets

Local Communications Asset Request

A request is made by a responding agency for a local communications asset (e.g. Mobile Command Post), the Incident Commander or by the Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) or their designee, communications center and/or the on scene supervisor validate the need for the request. If it is an asset that the requesting agency controls, it is deployed and the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and/or Multi-agency Coordination Group (MAC) are notified of the deployment. If it is an asset that is under the control of another agency within the county, then the EOC/MAC will provide the requesting agency with the necessary contact information to make the request or the local EOC/MAC may make the request for the requesting agency. The local EOC/MAC will make a record of the deployment so that it is known that the asset is in use and/or no longer available. The EOC/MAC will also notify the

regional Interoperable Communications Chairperson(s) of the deployment. A tracking number may be assigned to the request.

Regional Communications Asset Request

A request is made by a responding agency for a regional communications asset. (e.g.: EDICS Unit, MARC Unit) The Incident Commander, Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) or their designee, communications center and/or the on scene supervisor validate the need for the request. The request will be submitted to the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the county where the incident or event is occurring and/or the designated Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC). If the request involves RDSTF resources, the appropriate RDSTF discipline chair will be notified of the deployment. The local EOC/MAC will make contact with the Interoperable Communications Chairperson(s) in the Region to review the request and help determine if it is the most appropriate solution to meet the need. The local EOC/MAC will submit the request to the State EOC. The State EOC will process the request and utilize existing plans and policies to fulfill the request. The local EOC/MAC will make a record of the deployment so that it is known that the asset is in use and/or no longer available.

The host agency for a regional communications asset is responsible for ensuring that a mission tracking number is assigned to the deployment, however, deployment is not delayed or dependent upon the assignment of this number. The absence of a mission tracking number may have a fiscal impact on the requesting and/or host agency.

State Communications Asset Request

A request is made by a responding agency for a communications asset maintained and/or hosted by the State of Florida. (e.g.: State Mobile Command Posts, Mobile Mutual Aid Repeater Site, SLERS portable cache) The Incident Commander, Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) or their designee, communications center and/or the on scene supervisor validate the need for the request. The request will be submitted to the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the county where the incident or event is occurring and/or the designated Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC). The local EOC/MAC will make contact with the Interoperable Communications Chairperson(s) in the Region to review the request and help determine if it is the most appropriate solution to meet the need. The local EOC/MAC will submit the request to the State EOC. The State EOC will process the request and utilize existing plans and policies to fulfill the request.

The host agency for a State communications asset is responsible for ensuring that a mission tracking number is assigned to the deployment, however, deployment is not delayed or dependent upon the assignment of this number. The absence of a mission tracking number may have a fiscal impact on the requesting and/or host agency.

Federal Communications Asset Request

A request is made by a responding agency for a communications asset maintained and/or hosted by a federal agency. (e.g. NIFC portable radio cache, repeaters, portable telephone systems, microwave links) The Incident Commander, Communications Unit Leader (COM-L) or their designee, communications center and/or

the on scene supervisor validate the need for the request. The request will be submitted to the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the county where the incident or event is occurring and/or the designated Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC). The local EOC/MAC will make contact with the Interoperable Communications Chairperson(s) in the Region to review the request and help determine if it is the most appropriate solution to meet the need. The local EOC/MAC will submit the request to the State EOC. The State EOC will process the request and utilize existing plans and policies to fulfill the request.

If applicable, the host agency for a federal communications asset is responsible for ensuring that a mission tracking number is assigned to the deployment, however, deployment is not delayed or dependent upon the assignment of this number. The absence of a mission tracking number may have a fiscal impact on the requesting and/or host agency.