



Emergency Support Function 2 Communications

Coordinating Agency

West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM)

Primary Support Agencies

West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT)
Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN)

Support Agencies and Organizations

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR)
West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (WVDMAPS)
West Virginia Department of Commerce
West Virginia Department of Administration
West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WVVOAD)

Purpose

This annex describes the communications systems' capabilities and operating concepts for the WV State Emergency Operations Center (WVSEOC) that are used to meet two of the four basic communications requirements during an emergency or disaster: (1) the direction and control of units engaged in emergency operations; and (2) the interchange of information between units of government, as well as private sector and non-private partners participating in management of the incident.

Scope

A. Activities within the scope of ESF 2 include: the coordination, provision, support and/or restoration of all state-managed communications and infrastructure during incident response and training; and the coordination of outage reporting and restoration planning for all private telecommunications service providers operating within the State. These actions will be consistent with Federal Communications Commission (FCC), State of West Virginia, West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM), Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN), and West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) rules, regulations, and policies. ESF 2 services can be extended to localities upon request and as circumstances permit.

B. The scope of this annex is to describe the overall communications and warning systems employed by the WVSEOC prior to, during and after a disaster or emergency situation. These systems will be used in support of the operations of the WVSEOC, local governments, and the response community and include, but are not limited to radio communications, microwave, land line, cellular, secure, and special telephonic communications, computer internet and modem communications and the emergency alert – type systems coordinating all broadcast and cable mediums.

Policies

A. All agencies assigned responsibilities within this ESF will develop and maintain the necessary plans, standard operating procedures, mutual aid agreements, and model contracts to successfully accomplish their tasks.

B. This ESF may be utilized to assist in response to a communications incident (systems failure, etc.) at the WVSEOC. However, it is the responsibility of the SIRN or Information Technology (IT) staff assigned to the WVSEOC to address the issue first.

Organizational Structure

A. The Governor shall have general direction and control of the WVDHSEM and shall be responsible for carrying out of the provisions of the State Laws that govern such. The WVDHSEM Director, appointed by the Governor is the director of emergency management for the state. The Director appoints a WVSEOC Coordinator, who manages and coordinates response activities under the Director. WVDHSEM coordinates state recovery activities for a disaster that is declared by the President as authorized by the Stafford Act. For a presidentially declared disaster, the Director of WVDHSEM is usually the Governor’s designated State Coordinating Officer.

B. The mission of the WVDHSEM is to provide leadership in an effort to protect West Virginia from the impact of emergencies and disasters. The mission includes the planning and coordination of state, local, and federal entities to accomplish productive and timely recovery efforts.

The task organization for state level emergency operations includes:

- The Governor and his immediate staff.
- State resources coordinated by WVDHSEM during routine operations and by WVSEOC agencies during activations. Prior to an emergency declaration, the Governor may issue a deployment authorization for the West Virginia National Guard. The WVDHSEM Director will be notified of authorization approvals, including any limitations other than those specified by law, either directly from the Governor or through the Secretary of Military Affairs and Public Safety.
- State agencies assigned emergency responsibilities in the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (WVEOP). This plan identifies ESFs and designates responsibilities to lead and support agencies for each function.
- Coordinating Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) designated in the WVEOP and/or affiliated with ESFs. Some NGOs enter into agreements with the State of West Virginia to perform specific disaster functions.

- Infrastructure stakeholders designated in the WVEOP and/or working with the lead state agency for each ESF. Additional infrastructure stakeholders may be incorporated into the assigned duties with WVDHSEM as deemed necessary by the WVDHSEM WVSEOC Coordinator.
- Recovery activities coordinated by WVDHSEM for the short phases.
- Regional coordination: When appropriate, the area liaisons provide an intermediate level of assessment and coordination within WVDHSEM's six emergency management regions. Local Emergency Planning Committees collaborate in the development of regional coordination plans.
- Local jurisdictions: Each city and county, as well as certain towns, are required to have an emergency management organization. Locally available manpower, materials, equipment, and facilities should be identified in each local EOP. Localities not affected may be asked to provide assistance through the West Virginia Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (WVSMMA) program.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the WVDHSEM coordinate the delivery of disaster assistance from a Joint Field Office (JFO). The state organization for recovery and mitigation parallels the federal organization at the JFO to ensure the effective interface and coordination from both a functional and programmatic perspective. The recovery framework is structured to be flexible and scalable to quickly adapt to any disaster situation.
- Other Federal agencies when requested and within their statutory authority.

Concept of Operations

A. General

1. As Primary Support Agencies for ESF 2, SIRN and WVOT will ensure sufficient staffing in accordance with mission requirements and coordinate communications and infrastructure support to meet mission requirements.
2. Operations are dependent upon the availability of resources and assets, including personnel, from SIRN and WVOT. Operations are intended to complement those activities and roles outlined in the Infrastructure Protection Programs and Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.

3. Generally, state-managed communications within the state are dependent upon the WVOT Information Technology Partnership (ITP) including SIRN assets, user and leased commercial telephone lines, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), broadband providers and/or leased IT networks, and SIRN affiliated facilities. ESF 2 will leverage equipment and services offered from the ITP, but may need to utilize resources beyond the ITP if dictated by the mission requirements.

Agency Responsibilities Matrix

Supporting Agency	Acronym	Responsibilities
West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	WVDHSEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with WVOT for staffing and SOPs • Coordinate other State communications Assets
West Virginia Office of Technology	WVOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the information flow regarding the status of communications and infrastructure between the WVSEOC and IT and/ or telecommunications service providers • Coordinate spectrum policy as it applies to specific events and tasks • Assist and coordinate with the ITP and private sector telecommunications carriers to ensure the provision/restoration of communications and IT services, as required • Supply technical expertise, direct technical support and maintenance of communication assets within the scope of existing contracts and maintenance agreements during activation or declared emergency • Provision and support infrastructure required for the incident response and recovery activities outside of fields offices, state managed shelters, etc.
Statewide Interoperability Radio Network	SIRN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate and maintain the SIRN radio and microwave networks. • Coordinate RF Spectrum policy as per FCC • Assist and coordinate with SIRN partners to ensure operational communications • Supply technical expertise, direct technical support and maintenance of SIRN assets, contracts, and agreements
West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources	WVDHHR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain automated alerting capabilities with the Health Alert Network (HAN) system • Maintain voice and video over the internet conferencing capabilities with Health Departments and Regional Hospital Coordination Center (RHCC) sites throughout the state • Maintain redundant voice and web-based communications capabilities with hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the state
West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety	WVDMAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the information flow from the Department of Educations • Provide a technical communications representative for support as required

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide communications equipment and other resources as needed • Provide the following as a secondary communications means for statewide direction and coordination of emergency/disaster operations: Tactical Communications Packages, Mobile Command Post, and Joint Incident Site Communication Capability
West Virginia Department of Commerce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and expertise as requested by the WVDHSEM to support communication operations
West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster	WVVOAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide backup emergency communications systems to ensure redundancy • Provide aerial relay of communications
Civil Air Patrol	CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide supplemental communications capability

Authorities & References

Authorities

WV Code §15-5

Governor’s Executive Order 2-11

References

State of West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan – Basic Plan