

# 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 Emergency Management department 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, supersede all previous editions, and become effective immediately upon the signing of all signatory authorities noted below.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature On File \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 13, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 700 MHz P25 radios with common digital channels are the primary means of communications for internal 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 from Brazos County also have access to radios with common digital channels. TAMU departments that have primary channels on the BVWACS 700 MHz P25 radio system are as follows:
  - 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 the TAMU Non-Public Safety departments that have access to BVWACS 700 MHz P25 radios should an event or incident warrant the need for increased interoperable

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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 (CIRT)
  - TAMU A&M – Galveston
  - Levy
  - Library
  - MSC Facilities
  - UES
  - Rec Sports
  - Brazos Transit
- 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 BVWACS 700 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 as follows:
    - TAMU COOP - 700 MHz P25 System
    - CAMPUS DISPATCH - 800 MHz MotoTrbo System
  - Other communications means are as follows:
    - Campus wireless network – TAMU\_WiFi
    - Public Safety LTE Network (FirstNet)
    - Digital wireless devices – text message devices (smart phones)
    - Internet

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- 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

- Manage and maintain radio systems for the campus to include the TAMU 800 MHz MotoTurbo System and the BVWACS 700 MHz P25 system.
- Coordinate the programming of university radios with appropriate radio communications channels.
- Oversee the installation and maintenance of cellular nodes and distributed antenna systems (DAS) on campus.
- Serve as the point of contact and coordinate enrollment for the GETS / WPS System.

#### All Departments

- Maintain up-to-date lists of contact information for emergency response personnel who may be activated during emergencies to include phone numbers and radio ID numbers as applicable.
- Provide adequate training on radio communications and radio systems.

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### RECORD OF CHANGE

CHANGE NUMBER	DATE OF CHANGE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	CHANGE MADE BY:
1	1/20/2016	Minor grammatical changes and terminology changed throughout. Addition of responsibilities for TAMU IT.	SASE
2	10/2/2018	Minor grammatical changes and updates to lists.	SASE
3	March 2022	Minor grammatical changes; update to radio systems	SASE