



ANNEX B COMMUNICATIONS

ANNEX B - COMMUNICATIONS

PROMULGATION STATEMENT

Annex B: Communications, and contents within, 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 Assistant 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: Signature on file Date: 1-27-2016

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

ANNEX B - COMMUNICATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I: GENERAL.....	3
SECTION II: CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.....	3
SECTION III: ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES	5
RECORD OF CHANGE.....	6

ANNEX B - COMMUNICATIONS

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.

SECTION I: 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 strategies can become disabled. This annex identifies the equipment and methods employed to ensure that all necessary communications are reliably made amongst responders.

SECTION II: 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 compliant) 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), most 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 700 MHz radio system are:
 - University Police Department

ANNEX B - COMMUNICATIONS

- Emergency Medical Services
- The 800 MHz radio system is the primary radio system for most university departments. Below are TAMU departments that have access to 700 MHz radios should an event or incident warrant the need for increased interoperable communications; however, their primary channels are on the 800 MHz system.
 - Environmental Health and Safety
 - SSC Service Solutions / Facilities Services
 - Easterwood Airport
 - College of Veterinary Medicine
 - Transportation Services
 - TAMU IT
 - Reed Arena
 - TEEX Fire School Medics
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Athletics
 - Critical Incident Response Team
 - Texas A&M – Galveston
- All university radios have a set of common channels for interoperability among departments. These channels are:
 - Disaster Recovery
 - Meet Me 1
 - Meet Me 2
 - Meet Me 3
- Other communications means are:
 - Campus wireless network – TAMULink
 - Public Safety LTE Network (FirstNet)
 - Digital wireless devices – text message devices (smart phones)
 - 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.

SECTION III: ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

TAMU IT

- Manages and maintains radio systems for the campus to include the 800-MHz System and the 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, pager numbers, and radio ID numbers, as applicable.
- All departments should provide adequate training on radio communications and the new BVWACS system.

