



Disaster Emergency Communications

As a national leader in the field of Disaster Emergency Communications, FEMA coordinates the federal government's response, continuity efforts and restoration of essential communications before, during, and after an incident or planned event. Working closely with federal, state, tribal, and other mission partners, FEMA helps to unify the efforts of all responders around one common communication goal: the delivery of information to emergency management decision makers. Having a single, shared communications vision promotes an interagency system of interoperable communications capabilities across all levels of government to ensure mission-critical information and situational awareness.

Communications and information systems:

Establishing and maintaining effective disaster emergency communications and information systems is critical to FEMA's role in coordinating the federal government's response, continuity efforts, and restoration of essential services. The Disaster Emergency Communications Division in the Response Directorate ensures effective communications by:

- Providing and supporting tactical operable and interoperable voice, video, and information systems for emergency response teams
- Developing effective command and control communications frameworks
- Supporting the coordination and delivery of secure communications solutions
- Identifying and documenting mission-critical disaster emergency communications and information systems capabilities, requirements, solutions, and mitigation strategies
- Promoting communications interoperability with Federal, State, Tribal, and local emergency response providers



Rapidly deployable equipment:

FEMA's Disaster Emergency Communication Division can rapidly deploy Mobile Emergency Response Support capability to provide secure and non-secure voice, video, and information services, operations, and logistics support to response operations, FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams, Urban Search & Rescue teams, National Disaster Medical System teams, Disaster Survivor Assistance teams, and other joint federal and State response teams in resource-constrained environments. Mobile Emergency Response Support can build out and support Interim Operating Facilities, Joint Field Offices, Disaster

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Recovery Centers, and other incident infrastructure. Additionally, the Mobile Emergency Response Support can bridge disparate communications systems to integrate Essential Support Functions, National Guard, and federal departments and agencies with regional, state, tribal, and local partners.

FEMA's Disaster Emergency Communications Division and the Branch in the Joint Field Office execute FEMA's Emergency Support Function #2 co-primary responsibility to support public safety communications during a disaster and, in conjunction with the National Communications System and Emergency Support Function #2 support organizations, coordinate the restoration of commercial radio, broadcast, and other communications systems and capabilities.

Preparedness and coordination:

To further facilitate preparedness and coordination, FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications supports the development of regional deliberate and catastrophic disaster plans to include state-specific communications annexes, and supports the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups in all ten FEMA regions to address key emergency communications issues. The Working Groups membership includes emergency response organizations from federal, state, tribal, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector entities.

Mobile Communication Office Vehicle:

The mission of the vehicle fleet is to provide a communications platform to support administration, operations and human services programs. Units deploy during the initial phases of a disaster to support preparation for a potentially impending disaster and to continue on in initial response operations prior to supporting the fleet's primary focus - support of the Recovery Directorate of FEMA's Office of Response and Recovery.

- Primary Mission – Support Recovery Directorate's Individual Assistance Mission
- Included in "Push Packages" for first responder type missions (Urban Search & Rescue, Federal Mobilization Centers, National Disaster Medical System, Emergency Response to Terrorism, Federal Operational Staging Area, Mobile Emergency Response Support augmentation, Applicant Registration Mission, etc.)
- Rapidly available to support wide variety of missions across the FEMA structure including Applicant Registration, various levels of Government, and nongovernmental organizations



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