Cross-border Emergency Operations Communication

Concept of Operations (CONOP)

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Participating Agencies

- U.S. Federal
  - Custom Border Protection
- California
  - Office Emergency Services
  - Public Health
  - CAL FIRE
- County of San Diego
  - Office Emergency Services
  - Sheriff
  - Public Health
  - Department Environmental Health
- City of San Diego
  - Office Homeland Security
  - Fire-Rescue Department
  - Police Department
- Baja California
  - Proteccion Civil de Estado
- City of Tijuana
  - Proteccion Civil
  - Bomberos

Binational Communication Overview

- Objective:
  - Establish emergency communication concept of operations between Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) of local operating agencies for use during regional disasters.

- Goals
  - Provide guidance for operational coordination with Mexico during compromised communications
  - Build international relationships between appropriate operation center levels through regular meetings and drills
  - Identify and maintain key contacts between key agencies and their counterparts
  - Compliment pre-existing agreements

Concept of Operations

- Triggers
  - Response Phase: when two or more DOCs and City of San Diego's EOC has been activated due to an incident crossing the international border.
- Classify communication conditions:
  - Green – Normal internet and phone capability
  - Yellow – Limited capability due to cellular system overloaded
  - Red – No phones or internet
- Procedures for:
  - Establishing conference calls depending on capabilities
  - Communicating situational reports and messaging
  - Activation of ham radio volunteers

Current Efforts

Bi-lingual Draft Products

- Concept of Operations
- Conference Call Procedures
- Conference Call Narrative
- Flash Situation Report
- Key Contact List

Events

- Monthly meetings
- June Comm Drill
  - Tested 'Yellow' procedures
- July
  - Drill After Action
- **Fall 2018 Drills**
  - Ham radio

Future Efforts

- Work with CBP to establish procedures for coordination
- Continue revision of procedures to meet capabilities and expectations of local agencies
- Establish regular drill schedule and contact list maintenance