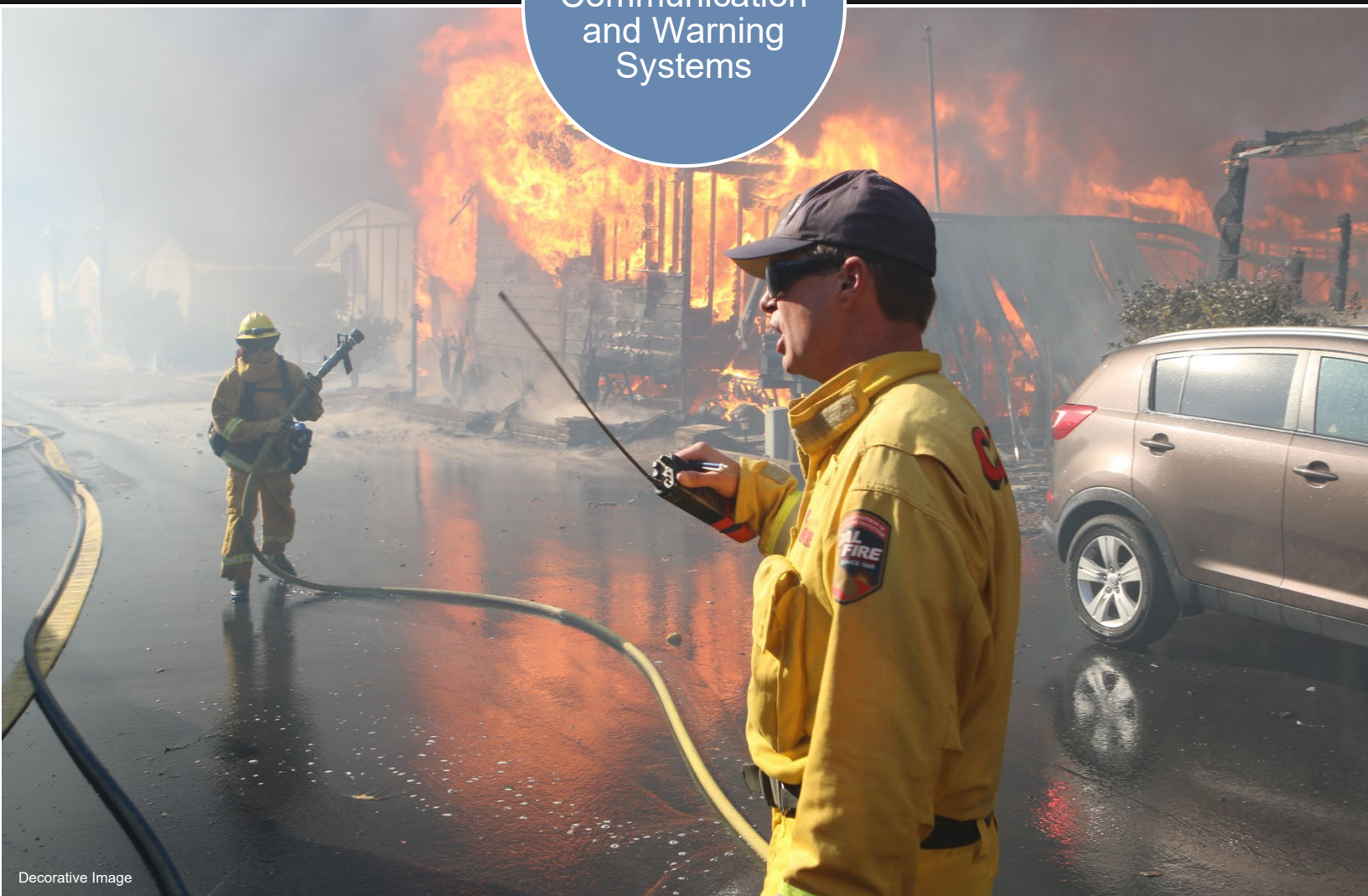


# ANNEX I

## Communication and Warning Systems



Decorative Image

## Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan SEPTEMBER 2022

Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization And County Of San Diego

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annex describes the communications capabilities that exist in the Operational Area (OA). Managing 24-hour interoperable communications is completed by jurisdictional and Regional Communications System (RCS) staff.

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## GENERAL

### INTRODUCTION

Essential to all organizations is an effective communications capability to support daily operations. In a disaster, these communications systems become critical. The magnitude of a particular emergency situation will determine the degree to which communications systems are utilized.

The San Diego County Operational Area (OA) has 19 jurisdictions (18 incorporated cities and one unincorporated area), numerous special districts and many military facilities which support several communications systems.

In addition to common carrier communications (wired and cellular) networks, the OA has developed robust interagency and interoperable wireless voice and data communications capabilities.

Most of the jurisdictions in the OA operate in the 800 MHz spectrum. The majority of these agencies operate on the San Diego County – Imperial County Regional Communications System (RCS), a voice network which provides a coordinated communications capability for the OA.

Many fire and support agencies also operate on 150 MHz (VHF High Band) spectrum to facilitate voice fire communications under the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

In addition to an effective communications capability, government must have an effective means to provide alert and warning to the population impacted or at risk as the result of an emergency. There are several regionally available alert and warning systems designed to provide San Diego County residents with emergency notifications. These systems include the

Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) which includes the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and the AlertSanDiego/Accessible AlertSanDiego system. See [Annex L – Emergency Public Information](#) for additional information on other modalities, including American Sign Language (ASL), for communicating with the public.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this annex is to address the communications systems and the alert and warning systems that are currently in place in the OA.

This annex will be updated as new systems are developed and existing system information is revised.

## **WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH**

The San Diego County OA is committed to achieving and fostering an emergency management system that uses a Whole Community Approach and is fully inclusive of individual needs and circumstances. For further details on the Whole Community Approach to emergency management and the integration of inclusive emergency management practices, refer to the Basic Plan.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

Response to local emergencies is managed by first responders operating under the Incident Command System (ICS). As incidents grow, or when multiple incidents are taking place simultaneously within the OA, existing procedures provide that Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at the local and OA level are staffed to coordinate information and provide support to the incidents.

Communications resources available for multiple incidents are finite and must be coordinated to ensure the needs of the incident(s) are met while maintaining adequate capability for day-to-day operations.

At the OA level, the OA EOC is activated by the County Office of Emergency Services (OES). The Communications Unit Coordinator (COMC) within the OA EOC communicates with the Communications Unit Leaders (COML) at the incident(s) or with the Incident Ordering Points to ascertain which communications resources are committed to the incidents and what anticipated requirements exist as response continues and the incidents transition into recovery operations. The COMC works with counterparts at the Regional and State levels to keep them informed of which common channels are being used within the OA, and to coordinate for additional resources once the available resources within the OA have been assigned.

Communication systems are critical for all of the OA Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Annexes as well as specialized plans addressing subjects such as Reunification, Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue Services, and Evacuations.

## ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### ORGANIZATION

Within the OA EOC communications is managed by a COMC, who has operational oversight of all communications-related activities in the OA EOC and maintains an awareness of the tactical communications picture of all local incidents in the OA.

Staffing of the COMC position in the OA EOC is provided by the Sheriff's Department's Communications Center. Technical support for the OA EOC is provided by the Sheriff's Department's Wireless Services Division for radio-related issues, and by a County contracted Information Services provider for data and telephone-related issues.

### ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff's Department's Communications Center is the lead organization for communication operations within the OA EOC. The Communications Center is co-located in the same building as the OA EOC, and Division staff have been identified and trained to perform the duties of the COMC position. The Sheriff's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), which serves as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) organization for the OA, may provide trained licensed volunteer Amateur Radio operators to provide supplemental communications as required.

Technical support for the OA EOC is provided by the Sheriff's Department's Wireless Services Division for radio-related issues. Support for IT and telephone-related issues is provided by a County contracted Information Services provider. Representatives of each of these organizations report to the COMC in the OA EOC whenever the OA EOC or the annex are activated.

## DIRECTION, CONTROL, OR COORDINATION

### AUTHORITY TO INITIATE ACTIONS

This annex will be activated whenever the OA EOC is fully activated, or upon the direction of the Director (or designee) of OES. The Sheriff's Department's Communications Center is responsible for the implementation of this annex, through the designated COMC.

### COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- The COMC is responsible for determining the level of emergency operations under this annex, in consultation with the OA EOC General Staff and in conformance with OA EOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- The COMC will coordinate the operations of the Communications Unit within the OA EOC.
  - The Sheriff's Wireless Services Division will provide operational radio-related technical support to the OA EOC Communications Unit.
  - The County's IT contractor will provide IT and telephone-related support to the OA EOC Communications Unit.

## **INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM**

Under ICS, local incident command structures direct on-scene emergency operations and maintain command and control of on-scene incident operations. This annex establishes the Communications Unit functions within the OA EOC and supports the local incident command structures through the coordination of specialized equipment resources.

Personnel performing the functions to implement this annex are trained in accordance with National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards.

## **INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION**

The COMC is responsible for providing and maintaining an overall inventory of communications resources utilized at the incident(s) within the OA to the OA EOC. To gather this information, the COMC must coordinate with each Incident Commander or designated representative and Ordering Points. This information is usually provided using form ICS-205, *Incident Communications Plan*. The form is completed and disseminated by the Incident Command Post once each Operational Period.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The County of San Diego and most of the jurisdictions within the OA participate in the RCS. This P25 800 MHz public safety trunked radio network provides voice communications coverage throughout the entire OA. The RCS network provides access to conventional mutual aid / interoperability frequencies that can be used to communicate with non-member agencies when there is a need to coordinate information and / or operations.

The City of San Diego operates a separate P25 700 / 800 MHz public safety trunked radio network serving the City's Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) voice communication operations. In addition, the City network supports the safety voice communications needs of the San Diego Unified School District, the San Diego Community College District and other municipal fire departments.

Military facilities within the OA are served by UHF trunked networks. Non-military Federal agency and many State agency voice operations are typically in the VHF Lo-band (30 – 50 MHz), VHF Hi-band (150 – 174 MHz) and UHF (450 – 470 MHz) spectrum using conventional communications networks. Some Tribal safety communications are conducted on the RCS, while others operate in the VHF and UHF bands.

The OA has established varying levels of interoperability among the voice communication networks within the County. The San Diego Urban Area Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan has been developed and is maintained by the Interoperable Communications Committee. The TIC Plan documents the interoperable communications resources available within the OA, including which agency controls each resource, and what rules of use or operational procedures exist for the activation and deactivation of each resource.

## **FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications systems available to the various functional elements within the OA:

### **OPERATIONAL AREA COORDINATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Emergency Management communications between the OA EOC, jurisdictional EOCs, Incident Command Posts, and Departmental Operations Centers (DOCs) within the OA are conducted using a mix of systems and technologies, including:

### **MICROSOFT TEAMS & SHAREPOINT**

Microsoft Teams is a communication platform included in Microsoft Office 365. It is cloud-based and provides a collaboration space for chat, file sharing and video conferencing. Teams is widely used by the San Diego County OA. In 2021, OES implemented an external, secured SharePoint Hub that includes several shared workspaces for programs such as Hazard Mitigation, WebEOC and Alert & Warning.

### **REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (RCS)**

The San Diego County – Imperial County Regional Communications System provides dedicated common talk groups available for use as needed for Direction and Control over an 800 MHz trunked radio system.

### **FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS**

The majority of the fire agencies in the OA use the RCS and the City of San Diego's 800 MHz systems for day-to-day fire and EMS response operations. A unified 800 MHz fire communications fleet map has been developed and programmed into every Fire and Rescue user radio on the RCS and the City networks. This unified fleet map provides command, tactical and support channel resources for incident operations, while allowing apparatus to move within the county and operate with any other 800 MHz-based agency as needed.

A large area of rural San Diego County is undeveloped wildland for which fire protection is the responsibility of State or Federal fire protection agencies. These agencies primarily operate in the VHF Hi-Band spectrum, but they also have 800 MHz capabilities in dispatch and in their field units.

The western boundary of San Diego County is the Pacific Ocean. There are a number of bays and other navigable waterways used for commerce and recreation under the jurisdiction of Federal, State and local agencies. These agencies use a combination of VHF Hi-band and 700 / 800 MHz systems for life safety communications operations.

The State Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid system primarily operates mutual aid incidents on the VHF Hi-Band spectrum. The majority of local agency resources that would participate in wild land or mutual aid operations are equipped with VHF Hi-Band voice radios.

The Unified Fire fleet map, Fire and Rescue agency Mutual Aid Zone and agency Dispatch center assignments and contact information are listed in the San Diego Urban Area TIC Plan.

In an incident where mutual aid has been requested, the responsible Dispatch center will inform responding personnel what the command channel will be - either 800 MHz or VHF. Command vehicles have 800 MHz (trunked and conventional) and VHF capabilities. Talk groups within the unified fleet map have been established on 800 MHz for the purpose of on-scene and en route coordination, and are grouped by dispatch center / response area of the county. Assignments will be given to the incoming command units on a compatible frequency

with the Incident Commander, and then passed to the other members of the strike team on their identified frequency or talk group.

Due to the complex nature of communications and the varied systems and networks in place, it is imperative that a qualified COML is assigned to the incident and/or to the Operational Area EOC. The persons filling this position must have knowledge and an understanding of all radio systems used by the Fire Service within the county, including but not limited to the RCS, Cal OES and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) networks, United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) communications resources.

When the OA EOC has been activated, each incident-based COML needs to communicate on a regular basis with the Communications Unit Coordinator (COMC) in the OA EOC to ensure that incident operations are not in conflict with other incidents using frequencies within the county.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

The majority of the Law Enforcement agencies in the OA use the RCS and/or the City of San Diego's 700 / 800 MHz systems for day-to-day response operations. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) primarily uses VHF Low Band, but the El Cajon Area Office of the CHP uses the RCS as their primary system and the low band frequencies as backup. Other State and Federal law enforcement operations take place on VHF Hi-Band and UHF frequencies.

While different types of radios and frequencies are used, the OA has established varying levels of interoperability among the voice communication networks within the OA. Mutual Aid fleet map, Law Enforcement agency Mutual Aid Zone and agency dispatch center assignments and contact information are listed in the San Diego Urban Area TIC Plan.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The OA does not have established communications capabilities for the National UHF EMS radio frequencies in the 462 MHz band.

The OA EMS Radio System is a component of both the RCS and the City of San Diego's 800 MHz networks. All ambulances and hospitals are using 800 MHz radios for communications. The Base Hospitals are contacted by incoming Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics directly.

There are currently seven Base Hospitals in the County. These Base Hospitals are:

- Tri-City Medical Center
- Sharp Grossmont Hospital
- Scripps Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
- Palomar Medical Center
- Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla
- Sharp Memorial Hospital
- UC San Diego Medical Center

In the event of a disaster, the facilitating Base Hospital for the affected area is responsible for gathering patient bed availability information from the satellite receiving hospitals. Additional information about emergency medical system communications during disasters or mass-casualty incidents is available in Annex D – Mass-Casualty Incident (MCI) Operations.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Various agencies of County Government utilize voice radio communications in the furtherance of their duties. These agencies operate on the RCS and have been assigned their own talk groups. Countywide and mutual aid talk groups provide the ability for these agencies to talk to each other and with other agencies utilizing the RCS. When required, these agencies coordinate via the Sheriff's Communications Center. Some of the County agencies on this system include:

- Animal Services
- Environmental Health
- Medical Examiner
- Office of Emergency Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Probation
- Public Works

### AMATEUR RADIO

There are volunteer Amateur Radio Operators in San Diego County who devote many hours to support and supplement the communications capabilities of our emergency services.

The Sheriff's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operate across jurisdictional borders in San Diego County. There are also local jurisdiction radio groups that support communication efforts during disasters.

### SHERIFF'S AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (ACS)

The Sheriff's Auxiliary Communications Service is made up of specially trained communications volunteers managed by the Sheriff's Department. These volunteers help provide support when there is a need for supplemental communications during planned events and emergencies. Using Amateur Radio, public safety radio networks, and other communications systems, ACS volunteers are trained to provide communications and other services to Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement and other Public Safety agencies as requested when other communications systems need to be augmented or replaced. Amateur Radio stations have been established in many cities to provide communications between cities and the OA EOC.

OA Amateur Radio network operations and procedures are covered in the San Diego County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services Plan.

The services of Sheriff's ACS can be requested through the Sheriff's Communications Center or OES.

### AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

ARES is an organization under the auspices of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association of Amateur Radio Operators. ARES members volunteer their services primarily to agencies involved in health and welfare activities. ARES works closely with Sheriff's ACS, the County's EMS agency, the American Red Cross (ARC), and the Salvation Army, and provides emergency communications to all area hospitals.

ARES can be requested through the PHS Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch (PHPR) or EMS duty officer.



## **OPERATIONAL AREA ALERT AND WARNING**

Multiple systems are regionally available to authorized public safety officials to disseminate alert and warning notifications to the public. Emergency information, advice, and action instructions are given to the public by various types of media. EAS, WEA, AlertSanDiego/Accessible AlertSanDiego, and door-to-door communications are the primary mechanisms. The County also utilizes social media to distribute emergency information to the public. Other available platforms used to distribute public alert and warning include 211, Partner Relay Network of non-profit organizations, houses of worship and community leaders, and distribution of bulletins in standard and accessible formats. OES maintains pre-scripted, hazard-specific warning messages for high impact events that require time sensitive warnings. Additional information on these various modalities is available in Annex L – Emergency Public Information.

### **INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM (IPAWS)**

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) was developed and implemented by FEMA in conjunction with the FCC to allow alerting authorities to send alerts via the, Emergency Alert System (EAS), for radio and TV stations, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) for cell phones, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio service, Internet-based services and unique state and local alert systems.

Local WEA messages may cross into other jurisdictions. WEA originating jurisdictions and agencies will notify neighboring or overlapping jurisdictions that may be affected per the 2020 MOA.

The San Diego County OA utilizes two systems for sending IPAWS alerts. AlertSanDiego is the primary system for sending IPAWS alerts. WebEOC is the backup system for IPAWS alert messaging.

### **EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)**

The State of California has been divided into "EAS Operational Areas" for the purpose of disseminating emergency information. The San Diego EAS Operational Area encompasses the entire County. Under Federal guidelines, local EAS operational plans are written by the broadcast community. Two radio stations, KOGO (600 AM) the LP-1 and KLSD (1360 AM) the LP-2 have emergency generators and have volunteered to be the local primary stations for the OA.

All radio and television stations in San Diego County along with all cable TV providers can broadcast emergency public information in the event of an activation of the EAS. The system is designed so that radio, TV and cable stations/systems monitor the LP-1 and LP-2 stations and forward the information to their listeners and viewers.

OES is authorized to activate the EAS. Approved jurisdictional Alerting Authorities in the OA can contact the OES Duty Officer and request activation of the system. Determination will be made by OES in the event of the need to notify large areas of the county to take protective actions or to provide emergency information.

Weather-related warning messages will originate at the National Weather Service's facility in Rancho Bernardo.

## WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEA)

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are free notifications delivered to mobile devices similar to text messages. These messages can be disseminated as 90-character English messages as well as 360-character English, 90-character Spanish, and 360-character Spanish messages. The County of San Diego has a Memorandum of Understanding with FEMA that designates the OES as a WEA originator. OES holds a Memorandum of Agreement with all 18 incorporated cities allowing jurisdictional alerting authorities to access and utilize WEAs

WEA messages are intentionally short and should direct residents to take a specific action: evacuate, shelter in place, monitor the news for additional information, etc.

Per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, the following criteria should be met to warrant a WEA message:

- **Urgency:** The event urgency must be classified as either *immediate*, requiring immediate responsive action, or *expected*, requiring responsive action within one hour.
- **Severity:** The severity of the event must be classified as either *extreme*, posing an extraordinary threat to life of property, or *severe*, posing a significant threat to life or property.
- **Certainty:** The certainty of the event must be classified as either *observed* (i.e., determined to have occurred or to be ongoing) or *likely* (i.e., determined to have a probability of occurrence of 50 percent or greater).

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CENS)

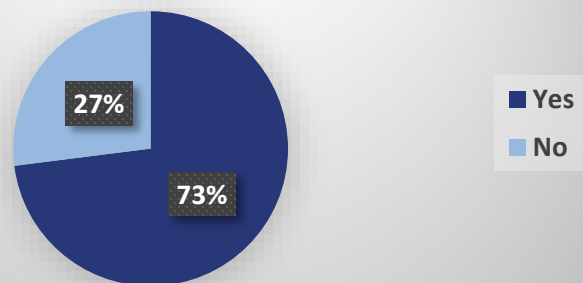
In 2006, the County of San Diego implemented the AlertSanDiego communications system. AlertSanDiego is currently available throughout the OA. All listed and unlisted landline phone numbers are included in the AlertSanDiego database and residents can register their cell phone, VoIP phone number and email addresses.

AlertSanDiego enables public safety officials to call individuals, via a telephone notification system, and alert them to emergency actions which may need to be taken. AlertSanDiego combines GIS mapping technologies with 9-1-1 calling data in an easy-to-use interface.

AlertSanDiego is also available in accessible formats. Accessible AlertSanDiego provides public safety officials the capability of alerting and informing individuals in San Diego County who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind before, during, and after a disaster. Accessible AlertSanDiego sends accessible alerts and information to internet and video capable devices, such as computers, cell phones, mobile devices, tablet computers, and

In a 2022 survey, 73% of respondents said they have registered their mobile phone and email for AlertSanDiego, the County's regional mass notification system.

### Respondents That Have Registered for AlertSanDiego



wireless Braille readers. These alerts are offered in American Sign Language (ASL) with English voice and text.

The AlertSanDiego system, which is hosted by a contracted software provider, has the capability of making thousands of calls per hour by using automated calling technology. OES, incorporated Cities or Sheriff's Communications Center can activate AlertSanDiego.

## **FEDERAL AND STATE ALERT AND WARNING**

This warning system is the means for relaying to the public, notice from the Federal, State or local government of impending or actual disaster or attack. Appropriate responses and the most effective use of warning information may be limited by the amount of time available.

### **ACTIONS**

The California Warning System (CALWAS), a component of the National Warning System (NAWAS) sends out warning information, which is received at the Sheriff's Communication Center and relayed to OES. The public is then warned by means of EAS and any other means, including mobile loudspeakers.

Alternate means of warning are via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), public safety radio systems, and the ACS Amateur Radio network.

Notice of warning is also broadcast from the various county and city communications centers to special facilities (schools, hospitals, fire stations, utility stations, long term care facilities, etc.). Key workers of emergency organizations may be alerted by telephone or radio. EAS, WEA, and the AlertSanDiego systems are expected to provide coverage for a large part of the population.

### **WARNING TYPES**

Listed below are several types of warnings supported by the National Warning System (NAWAS):

#### **Attack Warning**

A warning that an actual attack against this country has been detected.

#### **Fallout Warning**

A warning of radiation hazards resulting from a nuclear cause.

#### **Warning Information**

Authorized EAS stations will broadcast warning information as requested under the EAS Operational Area Agreement.

#### **War Emergency**

Emergency Services authorities will route war emergency warnings via designated EAS program entry points to the media.

#### **Peacetime Emergencies**

Warning of an extraordinary peacetime emergency may be received by local government over the CLETS, public safety radio systems, NAWAS, and/or other means.

## **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES**

### **OPERATIONAL AREA SATELLITE INFORMATION SYSTEM (OASIS)**

OASIS is a State of California owned satellite system established to provide Emergency Management voice and data communications independently of commercial networks. A terminal in the OA EOC provides data connectivity and several phone lines for voice communications with State Emergency Management officials and adjacent OAs.

### **SATELLITE TELEPHONES**

Satellite phones, if available, can be used in the event that local cellular towers are unavailable or offline. The County's Office of Emergency Services has a cache of satellite phones.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE (TRS)**

TRS is a free service that permits a person with a hearing or speech disability to use the telephone system via a text telephone (TTY) or other accessible device to call people with or without the same disability or other access and functional need.

Several forms are available depending on the needs of the user and the equipment available:

- Text-to-Voice TTY-based
- Voice Carry Over
- Speech-to-Speech Relay
- Shared Non-English Language Relay
- Captioned Telephone Service
- IP Captioned Telephone Service
- Internet Protocol Relay Service
- Video Relay Service (for ASL)

To access certain forms of TRS, callers can dial 7-1-1 from any telephone in the United States to be connected with a specially trained communications assistant. 7-1-1 access is not available for internet-based forms of TRS, including IP Captioned Telephone Service, Internet Protocol Relay Service, and Video Relay Service.

## **EOC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

The communications systems installed in or controlled from the OA EOC support the field activities of the emergency organization. Other communications systems provide links to nearby jurisdictions and to higher levels of the statewide emergency organization. The communications systems in the OA EOC include the radio systems licensed to the County. Such radio systems are augmented, in an emergency, by radio systems licensed to other governmental agencies, to private industry, and to individuals. During a State of War emergency, privately owned radio systems, equipment, and facilities, subject to approval of the licensee, will generally be used to support field activities of the emergency services not already linked directly to the OA EOC.

The Communications Unit is a technical support position in the Logistics Section which provides communications for the management of emergency operations. The County communications operation is under command of the Sheriff.

The Sheriff's Wireless Services Division provides staff to make provisions for additional equipment in addition to maintaining communications equipment. The operations personnel assess their communications requirements and advise the COMC.

## **MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMAND VEHICLES**

The County has two mobile communications and command vehicles ("ECHO III" and "RACES 1") available to support EOC communications operations. These vehicles are maintained by the Sheriff's Department Communications Center and are operated by designated COMU personnel. These vehicles are also available to support incident operations as necessary.

To support incident-based management and operations, there is an extensive inventory of Mobile Command Vehicles owned by the various jurisdictions in the OA. The list of these vehicles is included in the Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan.

## **ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS**

Under Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), special districts are considered local governments. As such, they are included in the emergency planning efforts throughout the OA. The OA Emergency Organization, in accordance with SEMS, supports and is supported by:

- Cities within the OA
- The County of San Diego
- Special Districts
- Other Counties
- The State of California
- The Federal Government

NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together effectively. NIMS also enables these entities to efficiently prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism.

Mutual aid, including personnel, supplies, and equipment, is provided in accordance with the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and other OA Mutual Aid Agreements.

The private sector is an important part of the emergency organization. Business and industry own or have access to substantial response and support resources, including functional needs support services (FNSS). Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) provide valuable support before, during, and after a disaster. OES has established the ReadySanDiego Business Alliance which will have a connection to the OA EOC via a business liaison.

There are some City and County personnel who do not have specific task assignments. They are automatically designated by State Law as Disaster Service Workers during a disaster and serve in the response effort.

- “All public employees and all registered volunteers of a jurisdiction having an accredited disaster council are Disaster Service Workers,” per Government Code Title I, Division 4, Chapter 8, and Labor Code, Part I, Division 4, Chapters 1 and 10.
- The term public employees include all persons employed by the State, or any County, City or public district.
- Other personnel including volunteers can be registered by OES as Disaster Service Workers, which provides Workers Compensation and liability coverage.

The Sheriff’s Department maintains a list of pre-registered Disaster Service Workers (DSW) volunteers affiliated with volunteer organizations that provide auxiliary communications support and services to Public Safety agencies during planned events and emergencies.

It is imperative that local government maintain duplicate records of all information necessary for restoration of normal operations. This process of record retention involves offsite storage of vital computerized and paper-based data that can be readily accessible.

## ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This annex is a product of the OA EOP. As such, the policies, procedures, and practices outlined in the OA EOP govern this annex. OES is subject to coordinate the maintenance and update of this annex every four years, in accordance with the maintenance schedule established for the OA EOP. Record of changes, approval and dissemination of the OA EOP will also apply to this annex.

Updates to this annex can be made before such time for multiple reasons, including but not limited to changes in policy/procedure, improvements and recommendations based on real life events or exercises, etc. Recommended changes should be submitted to OES at [oes@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:oes@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Annex I was developed and is maintained by the Interoperable Communications Committee (ICC), a committee chartered by the San Diego County Unified Disaster Council. The ICC is chaired by the Sheriff Department’s Communications Center with members drawn from the jurisdictions and agencies within the OA.

The annex is a living document. The ICC will periodically review and revise the annex and supplementary documents as needed to ensure the documents are up to date.

## AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

### LEGAL BASIS FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

- Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization, Fifth Amended Emergency Services Agreement, 2005
- County of San Diego Emergency Services Ordinance No. 8183, dated December 15, 1992
- County of San Diego Resolution adopting the California Master Mutual Agreement, dated December 11, 1950
- California Emergency Services Act, Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code

- California Emergency Plan (October 2017) and sub-plans
- Article 9, Emergency Services, Section 8605 of the Government Code, Operational Areas
- Article 9.5, Emergency Services, Section 8607 of the Government Code, SEMS
- Incident Command System, Field Operations Guide, ICS 420-1
- San Diego Urban Area Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, February 2006
- Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization Resolution adopting the National Incident Management System dated September 15, 2005

## **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

- Federal Communications Commission Regulations (Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations), Parts 11, 90, 97 and 101
- National Emergency Communications Plan (DHS, 2014)
- California Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (CalOES, 2013)
- SDUA Interoperable Communications Plan SOP (May 2013)
- SDUA Regional TIC Field Operations Guide (May 2013)
- SDUA Fire-EMS Radio System Failure Procedure Quick Reference Guide (May 2013)
- SDUA Law Enforcement Radio System Failure Procedure Quick Reference Guide (May 2013)
- SDUA Lifeguard / Other User Radio System Failure Procedure Quick Reference Guide (May 2013)
- San Diego County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Plan
- San Diego EAS Operational Area Plan (2006 Edition prepared by the San Diego Local Emergency Communications Committee)
- San Diego Operational Area EOC Communications Systems Overview (2014 Edition)
- California Government Code § 8593.3 (2016) – Accessibility to Emergency Information and Services
- 109TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION, H. R. 5785, WARN – Wireless Alert Response Network – 2006
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2, 2022