

## Annex 2 (ESF-2 Communications) to the Darlington County Emergency Operations Plan

**Primary:** Central Communications - 911

**Support:** Emergency Services (Mobile Command Trailer)

**I. Introduction:** Communications includes information, reports, surveillance of threatening conditions and 24-hour radio, telephone, internet and teletype capability. This function consists of the utilization of equipment and personnel essential to coordinate and disseminate information before, during and after an impending or actual disaster. In the event normal emergency communications channels become overburdened or destroyed, other channels shall be utilized as necessary to assist responding public safety agencies and activities to disseminate instructions and operational guidance. Communications provides a means of defining, specifying and performing the functions of communications through coordination with the appropriate state, county and municipal agencies to minimize the loss of life and property in the event of a disaster.

**II. Mission:** To provide and coordinate communications support for direction and control during any emergency situation in Darlington County. Communications requirements are similar in all types of disasters and function basically the same, however, a disaster could tax the capability and resources of the county.

### **III. Concept of Operations:**

- A. The Director of Central Communications (911) is designated as the Communication Officer for Darlington County. In that capacity, she is responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of emergency communications during disasters and subsequently coordinating communication activities during the conduct of operations under this plan.
- B. Activities will be directed and coordinated from the EOC located in the EMS Annex, located at 1625 Harry Byrd Hwy, in Darlington. EOC operations will utilize WebEoc to assist in managing the disaster and to pass essential communications to local agencies and the State EOC. Should Internet access become unavailable, all messages will be processed through the Message Center in accordance with the Emergency Services Message Center SOP. Fax capability is available in the 911 Center and EOC. Backup power is supplied by a diesel-fueled generator with sufficient fuel available to sustain 24-hour operation. Plans are in place to provide refueling during disasters.
- C. The Communications Officer has overall responsibility for the coordination of communication activities during a disaster situation. The Communications Officer will be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Darlington County emergency radio net(s) to include communications with municipalities and

adjacent counties. The Communications Coordinators of the various municipalities will develop and maintain all communication activities in their respective jurisdictions.

- D. The primary means of communications will be by telephone. Telephone, radio and Internet communications are available between the EOC and supporting agencies with emergency assignments during a disaster. Communications between the County EOC and State EOC (SEOC) will be SCEMD LGR Net, telephone, Internet and satellite radio.
- E. Operators from each agency of local government will operate their own radio systems. Shelters will use telephone for primary communications and/or a reliable 2-way radio system for secondary communications, if available.

**Figure 1 – Radio Communication Nets in Darlington County**

STATE NET(S)	COUNTY RADIO NET(S)		
	Law Enforcement	Fire	EMS
State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)	Sheriff's Office	Hartsville Fire Department	Darlington County EMS
Forestry Commission	Hartsville Police Dept	Darlington Fire Department	Lake Robinson Rescue Squad
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Darlington Police Dept	Palmetto Rural Fire Department	Hartsville Rescue Squad
Department of Transportation (DOT) (SC Highway Patrol)	Society Hill Police Dept	Darlington County Fire District	Society Hill Rescue Squad
National Guard	Lamar Police Dept		Darlington Firemen's Rescue Squad
RACES Net			Lamar Rescue Squad
SCEMD LGR Net			Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center
	<b>Public Works Radio Nets</b>		
	Roads and Bridges		
	Environmental Services		
	Municipal Public Works		

- F. Communications provided under the Stafford Act are intended to supplement but not replace normal communications that remain operable after a disaster. Such emergency communications will be discontinued immediately when the essential communications needs of the county have been restored.
- G. The Mobile Command Trailer will be maintained in conjunction with Central Communications and Emergency Services. The purpose of this trailer is to:
  1. Support local emergency communications in the event of a failure of the Central Communications Center (911) as a result of a disaster or emergency.

2. Use a back-up EOC in the event the EOC or alternate EOC are seriously damaged or destroyed.
  3. Use as a Mobile Command Post to provide on-scene coordination of local emergency response forces participating in emergency operations in support of the County.
- H. Local ham radio operators can be used to provide emergency communications in the event of disaster and loss of all or a significant portion of the communications primary and back-up communication facilities and equipment. High-frequency radio capability would be provided through the SC Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services which the SC Amateur Radio Emergency Service will support. Agreements are in place in South Carolina for RACES to provide this service to state and local government.

#### **IV. Responsibilities:**

##### **A. Preparedness Phase**

- (1) Develop procedures to implement this annex to include alerting of communications staff.
- (2) Assist as required, the development and conduct of communications training.
- (3) The communications emergency staff will participate in exercises as directed by appropriate local authority.
- (4) Review requirements for additional equipment, supplies and resources and take action as appropriate.
- (5) Identify actual and planned actions of commercial communications companies to restore services.
- (6) Coordinate the acquisition and deployment of communications equipment, personnel and resources necessary to establish temporary communications capabilities.
- (7) Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
- (8) Insure that all Communications (ESF-2) personnel integrate the NIMS principles in all planning. As a minimum, primary staff officers will complete FEMA's NIMS Awareness Course, or an equivalent course.
- (9) Participate in tests and exercises annually to evaluate this annex and plan.

B. Response Phase:

- (1) When alerted by appropriate authority, the communications officer will notify the emergency communications staff.
- (2) Assist in the alerting other emergency staff as necessary.
- (3) Activate all emergency communications systems.
- (4) Establish communications between EOC and shelters as opened.
- (5) Identify actual actions of commercial communications companies to restore services.
- (6) Provide the capability for emergency personnel to receive emergency information and communicate decisions.
- (7) In coordination with the EOC, assign personnel to support the deployment of the Command Trailer when requested.

C. Recovery Phase:

- (1) Emergency communications systems will continue to function until normal communications have been restored.
- (2) Arrange for alternate communication systems to replace systems that are inoperative due to damage from disasters.
- (3) Gather communications damage assessment information from public and private organizations (including telephone outages) and report this information to Damage Assessment (ESF-14) and the Information and Planning Cell (ESF-5).
- (4) Insure that appropriate records are maintained to document costs incurred during the event.

D. Mitigation Phase:

- (1) Support and plan for mitigation measures.
- (2) Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in emergency plans.

**V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:**

A. Administration

(1) An initial status report will be made by the communications officer to the EOC as soon as practical.

(2) After action reports as required, will be submitted to the Emergency Services Director.

B. Logistics: Communications related supplies and equipment will be those normally used by the agencies. Additional supplies and equipment will be requested through the Emergency Operations Center.

**VI. Annex review and maintenance:** This annex (ESF) will be reviewed annually by the primary action agency, department or individual with changes submitted to the Emergency Services Department by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year for inclusion into the EOP. Following exercises or actual events the annex will be reviewed to determine if changes are required. If no changes are required, the primary action agency, department or individual will certify to the Emergency Services Director that the annex has been reviewed and changes are not required.

**VII. Frequency List:** Darlington County will not publish frequency lists in the EOP. Radio information will listed by user name and assigned nets.

**VIII. Coordinating Instructions:** This Annex is effective for planning upon receipt and for execution upon order.