

COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING

PART I (WARNING)

I. PURPOSE

To establish and maintain a 24-hour county-wide warning system. To receive and communicate timely warnings to appropriate officials and to the general public concerning actual or potential severe weather, flooding, radiological or hazardous materials releases and other situations so that appropriate preparedness or response actions may be taken.

II. SITUATION

A. Severe weather and flood warnings are disseminated from NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, IAWAS, TORNADO SPOTTERS to the Lyon COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER which disseminates warnings to the affected areas of the county, using established procedures. For the release of a hazardous material, the report will come from a facility coordinator or citizen by way of E911, or from a first-on-the-scene first responder by way of radio transmission. The Lyon County (Communication Center) will follow established procedures for coordinating and cooperating with the Chief Elected Official in providing warning to the public.

B. At the present time a telephone system is being considered that could simultaneously notify residents in the immediate vicinity of the Acme Methyl-ethyl Bad-Stuff Factory.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

Warning needs and methods for the general public differ according to the type of hazard and the barriers that exist for the population such as mobility and language. The predictability and speed of onset of hazards vary and may allow for ample warning or none at all.

IV. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The legal responsibility for ensuring effective warning to the public is under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors. Responsibility for direction and coordination of the warning function is under the supervisor of the County Communications Center, who is responsible for the supervision of all activities within the communications center.
- B. Specific responsibilities and tasks in warning are contained in the Emergency Response Checklist, Attachment 1, or in the procedures of the Communications Center and are divided into Preparedness, Response and Recovery phases.
- C. Rural populations will be warned through AM, FM radio and television broadcasts.
- D. Provisions for special populations are contained in the Departmental SOPs.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Upon receipt of warning, the (PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE LOCAL WARNING POINT, FOR EXAMPLE, "DISPATCHER") will refer to and automatically implement established procedures on receipt of a warning from (NAWAS, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, NOAA WEATHER RADIO, CABLE NEWS TELEVISION, STATE OR LOCAL AGENCIES OR OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES) and will activate appropriate warning systems. Operating personnel must know the title and phone number of key persons needed to make the warning notifications decision.

A. Systems Tests

Will do systems tests as required and scheduled by Departmental SOPs.

B. Exercises

The Communications Center shall provide warning for exercises as necessary.

C. Line of Succession

Per Departmental SOPs.

D. Accidental, Unauthorized or Prolonged Activation of Sirens

Per Departmental SOPs.

E. Special Instructions

1. In any emergency not covered by this plan and when the County Emergency Management Coordinator or other responsible official cannot be contacted, take all necessary actions consistent with sound judgment and common sense.
2. Departmental SOPs establish guidance for selection of the communication media for the development and dissemination of instructions to the public and provide an outline of the message to be disseminated. The media will be requested to provide warning notice using their systems for informing the special needs populations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING

PART II (COMMUNICATIONS)

I. PURPOSE

To establish the ability to communicate between direction and control authorities, coordinating authorities and response organizations for an effective and coordinated response and recovery. Should the day to day communication systems become unavailable, alternate systems may be planned to be implemented.

II. SITUATIONS

The Lyon County (Emergency Communications Center, Law Enforcement Center) is located at the Lyon County Law Enforcement Center, Rock Rapids, IA. In the event that this building is not available, emergency communications will be provided at the Lyon County Sheriff's Back-up Communications Center 410 So Boone, Rock Rapids, IA. This will be the point responsible for establishing, maintaining and providing backup for all channels involved with emergency situations. Day to day communications and back-up systems are protected and are adequate for all possible hazards could confronting the county.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

Communications networks and equipment exist in the County and will be used for natural disasters, technological emergencies and national/local security situations. See Attachments for primary and back-up communications systems for specific entities.

IV. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor of the communications center has the responsibility, within financial and technical restraints, to establish, use, maintain, and manage the emergency communication network and to ensure that is protected from hazards that may reduce its effectiveness. Standard Operating Guidelines should be developed to ensure consistency. This communications network includes back-up systems that are capable of supporting county-wide disaster operations, utilizing all available public and private communication systems, such as RACES, amateur radio, within the county.

Dispatchers have the responsibility to follow established procedures.

V. **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

THE LYON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL
COORDINATE ALL COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES.

The Emergency Management Coordinator, with the assistance of the supervisor of the communications center will ensure that public and private communication resources can be utilized in case back-up communications are needed.

LIST OF ADDENDA

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>ANNEX B</u>		
Attachment 1	Emergency Response Checklist	B-9

**COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST**

Position/Organization

PREPAREDNESS PHASE

SUPERVISOR COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

- _____ Write/review/update Communications SOPs
- _____ Insure testing and maintenance of communications equipment
- _____ Insure testing and maintenance of auxiliary power and alternate communications; inventory/replace fuel supply, batteries, etc.
- _____ Instruct staff on contents and use of message handling system
- _____ Insure availability of message forms

RESPONSE PHASE

SUPERVISOR COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

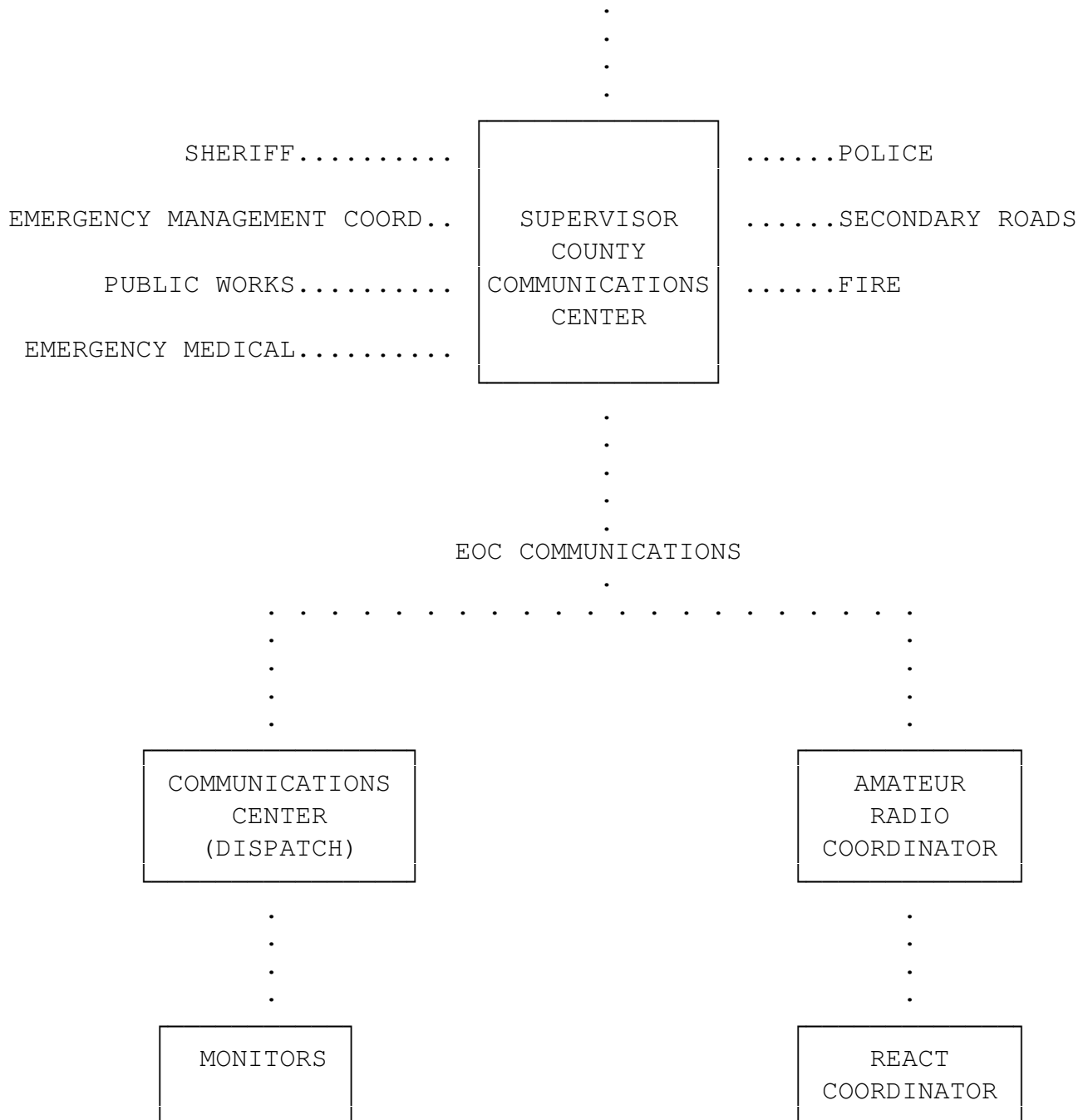
- _____ Alert Communications and Warning personnel
- _____ Advise Executive Staff of communications status
- _____ Implement message handling system
- _____ Activate Communications Center
- _____ Assign personnel to each communication capability
- _____ Maintain log of communication activity

RECOVERY PHASE

SUPERVISOR COUNTY COMMUNICATION CENTER

- _____ Maintain communications with state government and adjacent communities
- _____ Maintain log of communication activity
- _____ Prepare report of communication activities during disaster situation

COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING



1. Iowa System (Iowa Law Enforcement System)
 - a) Administrative (license plates, etc)
 - b) Weather information
 - c) Is a two way communication system
2. Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)
 - a) not just for nuclear attack anymore
 - b) one way communication
3. Iowa Communication Network (ICN) ("The fiber optic network")
 - a) Part one = 15 regional centers, the three regent universities and direct link to Iowa Public Television and the State Capitol.
 - b) Part two = 84 separate links from regional centers to remaining counties.
 - c) two way communication
4. Micron Metro Communication System
 - a) Radio, two way communication
5. Command Conference System
 - a) Capitol Complex -- may have such system in counties as well.
 - b) Is telephone system where one person may dial one number and connect with multiple parties at once. Two way communication.
6. Pager Systems
 - a) common in most counties
 - b) one way communication
7. Spotter Network
 - a) Trained people who are alerted when conditions are right for severe weather. The spotters watch for developing weather systems and report their sightings to warn populations of impending disaster.
 - b) Often times these volunteers are also ham radio or RACES people.
8. Amateur Radio, RACES, Ham radio, Packet
 - a) Short wave , two way communication

Communication Systems - Annex B

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9. Weather radio
 - a) One way communication
 - b) Dead spots in state: Iowa Great Lakes area, Mason City/Fort Dodge area, Southeast Iowa.
10. Public Safety Radio
 - a) Two way communication
11. Cellular phones
 - a) two way communication
12. Indoor Warning Systems
 - a) one way communication
13. REACT
 - a) Citizen Band two way communication
 - b) not active in most communities any more.
14. State Patrol Weather/ Road Conditions
 - a) one way communications
15. Sirens
 - a) one way communication
 - b) is not specific in information transmitted -- only alerts people there is danger and tells people to tune in to a radio or TV.
16. IAWAS/NAWAS
17. Fax Systems
 - a) two way communication
18. Local Area Networks (LANS)
19. Dial-up modems
20. Geographic Information System (GIS)