



Jefferson County - City of Port Townsend
COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



Part 3: Emergency Operations Guide

EOG 3.2.03 COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATION

(ESF 2 equivalent)
August 18, 2008

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY – Effective support of a major incident requires coordinated use of the full spectrum of communications technologies and resources. In the emergency management context the strategy addresses reliability (survivability), interoperability, augmentation, and coordination among public safety systems, amateur radio back up capabilities, and a wide range of other communications technologies.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS - Communications systems include conventional radio systems, microwave and wireless connectivity, web-based methods, conventional and cellular telephony, and a host of digital systems and personal electronic devices not previously envisioned.

CENTRAL COORDINATION – The Emergency Operations Center will utilize non-public safety communications resources (primarily Amateur Radio) for disaster coordination purposes. Jeffcom (the 9-1-1 PSAP) retains operational control of public safety networks (all local law enforcement and fire service radio). The Jeffcom Director is the overall communications coordinator, assisted by the designated RACES¹ (amateur radio) officer in the EOC.

EXISTING NETWORKS – Jefferson County public safety entities jointly operate Jeffcom as the primary dispatch service. A law enforcement network and a fire/EMS network, along with various sub-functions and tactical frequencies, provide the backbone of emergency response. Jeffcom is the 9-1-1 answering point.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER - The Emergency Operations Center has established a backup network based on Amateur Radio assets.

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES - Routine electronic networks (cellular phones, internet, text messaging, image transfer, etc.) are available in most of the populated areas of the county (and highly limited in rural West Jefferson County). There are also a limited number of proprietary (closed) links such as the wireless link from the Emergency Operations Center to the Alternate Emergency Operations Center.

WARNING POINT – Jeffcom is the designated 24/7 warning point. Warning and alert is defined separately (EOG 3.2.01).

JEFFCOM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish and maintain public safety communications infrastructure and capability
- Receive emergency calls from the public
- Deploy public safety resources
- Activate internal plans and procedures to support major incidents
- Participate in development of an incident communications plan

¹ Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, reference Jefferson County EOG 3.2.03, Attachment B.

- Assess damage to the communications infrastructure
- Coordinate repair and restoration of communications systems damaged by disaster

FIRST RESPONSE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish and maintain two-way communications systems
- Equip key personnel with electronic notification devices for rapid deployment
- Maintain internal plans and procedures for deployment of essential assets
- Establish and maintain mutual aid communications capabilities
- Participate in development and implementation of regional interoperability communications plans
- Participate in development of incident communications plans

JEFFERSON COUNTY EMA RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Coordinate and provide emergency support communications, including amateur radio resources**
- **Coordinate acquisition of emergency communications**
- **Participate in development of incident communications plans**
- **Activate the Emergency Operations Center (or alternate) as a coordination and communications support capability according to plan**
- **Provide 24/7 Duty Officer capabilities to receive and react to communications from the primary warning point.**

WASHINGTON STATE HOMELAND SECURITY REGION 2 INTEROPERABILITY COMMUNICATIONS SCHEME

