

## ANNEX C: COMMUNICATIONS

### I. SITUATION

#### A. Purpose:

1. Provide a communication capability (fixed and manual) to support operation in a local emergency in Sheridan County
2. Provide communication in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to direct and control the use of emergency service during a declared national emergency or major local disaster
3. Communicate with adjacent counties

#### B. Assumptions

1. Emergency Operations usually require communications capabilities beyond the normal capabilities of the equipment of a local government
2. Under major disaster conditions, higher levels of government will provide communications resources to augment local capabilities that support response and recovery activities
3. Ham radio operators, radio clubs and private organizations will be willing to assist the community in times of disaster

#### C. Vulnerability of the Communication System:

1. Lack of Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP) protection
2. Destruction/damage to repeaters
3. Power outages/surges
4. Breakdown of equipment
5. Terrorism
6. Lack of communications units
7. Inadequate training of communication personnel
8. Failure to test and exercise the system
9. Lacking total county coverage (SKIP areas)
10. Dependence on telephone lines for radio communications
11. Telephone jam
12. Damage/destruction of radio bases
13. Failure to have joint Communication Center

#### D. Resources (Local):

1. Personnel – Refer to Basic Plan, Appendix 4 for Key Personnel Listing
2. Communication coordinator
3. The law enforcement Net Base Station is in the Law Enforcement Center in Sheridan. Mobile units include all law enforcement and other emergency vehicles.
4. The Sheridan County government Net Base Station is at the County Shop.

Communications systems are:

- a. County Fire
- b. Fire Department
- c. Sheriff's Office

- d. Teletype
- e. County Bank
- f. NAWAS
- g. Sheridan Police Dept.
- h. Sheridan County EMS
- i. Sheridan Public Works
- j. SALECS
- k. Veterans Administration Frequencies
- l. U.S. Forest Service
- m. 5 County Frequency (Law Enforcement)
- n. County Fire
- 5. Veterans Administration – 2 frequencies
- 6. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Systems (RACES)/Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) are located in the Law Enforcement Center.
- 7. Communication Link Law Enforcement Teletype System (LETS) is located in Sheridan Police Department/Law Enforcement Center.
- E. Resources (State):
  - 1. The primary communication link statewide is Law Enforcement Teletype System located in Sheridan County Sheriff's Office.
  - 2. The primary communication system statewide during an emergency is RACES/ARES located in the state EOC, Cheyenne.
  - 3. Mutual Aid
  - 4. State Agency Law Enforcement Network (SALEN)
  - 5. State area III EOC communications at Natrona County Sheriff's Office (alternate area III EOC is at Campbell County).
  - 6. Game and Fish
- F. Resources (Federal):
  - 1. US Forest Service can provide radio coverage for entire county

## II. EXECUTION

- A. Concept of Operation:
  - 1. An emergency will require a communication system to assist local government and its emergency services to direct and coordinate their field forces in their activities to preserve life and property.
  - 2. Communication systems used by the emergency staff during an attack or other immediate disaster will include all systems now in use in Sheridan County. The mutual aid and RACES/ARES net will serve as the primary state communication system. Each radio system should be operated by that organization or designated operator.
  - 3. Local government nets serve as the primary communication system, augmented by the telephone service and private radio system as available.
  - 4. In the event of a multi-county, statewide or national emergency/disaster, the state area EOC at Casper (or alternate area EOC at Gillette) will be the communications link between the Area III counties and the state. Procedures for this coordinated communications

system will be established by Wyoming Emergency Management Agency.

B. Task Assignment & Implementation:

1. Police Chief (Communications Supervisor)
  - a. Coordinates the planning of communications services.
  - b. Supervises and coordinates communications between the Communication Center and EOC.
  - c. Coordinates communication between the various services within Sheridan County.
  - d. Supervises recording, routing and transmitting of all messages to and from the Communication Center.
2. Dispatcher on duty
  - a. Contacts First Alert Key Personnel.
  - b. Establishes a communications point log.
  - c. Monitors further communications/warnings.
3. ARES/RACES Officer (Ham Radio):
  - a. Reports to the Communications Coordinator.
  - b. Establishes communications link with state EOC RACES Officer.
  - c. Relays messages as received.
  - d. Utilizes the Amateur Radio Reporting System (See Annex E - Reports & Intelligence for reporting formats).
  - d. Operates in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97, sub-part F (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services)

III. CONTROL & COORDINATION:

- A. Organizational Chart. See next page.

A. Organizational Chart

PRIMARY COMMUNICATION CENTER  
911 Emergency Center

COORDINATOR  
911 Center Supervisor

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS  
RESOURCES

COMMUNICATION POINTS  
THRU LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CENTER

WYOMING HIGHWAY DEPT.  
MUTUAL AID

SHERIDAN

WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
MUTUAL AID

DAYTON

RANCHESTER

MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE

CLEARMONT

RACES/ARES (Ham Radio)

STORY

PRIVATE INDUSTRY

COUNTY

SHERIDAN COLLEGE

EMS/STATEWIDE HOSPITAL NET

V.A. MEDICAL CENTER

GAME & FISH

BRAND INSPECTOR

- B. The Law Enforcement Center in Sheridan is the main communication point in the county.
- C. Alternate Communications Points are:
  - 1. Mobile communications
- D. Line of succession for the 24-hour communication center:
  - 1. Communication coordinator
  - 2. Dispatcher-on-duty
- E. Recommend use of clear-text language whenever possible. Acronyms and other systems used by various emergency services may not be compatible. Confusion may result, especially during the process of relaying information.