

## NECP Implementation

### Involving the Whole Community

This concept is a means by which individuals, emergency management practitioners, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capacities, and interests.

The Whole Community includes:

- ◆ Emergency responders, including fire and rescue, law enforcement, and emergency medical services;
- ◆ Entities that communicate and share information during emergencies, such as public health, public works, transportation agencies, appointed and elected officials, and the public; and
- ◆ Officials who oversee mission priorities, budgets, and communications technology acquisitions.

Implementation of the NECP is a shared responsibility among the Plan's stakeholders. To ensure the NECP is implemented successfully, OEC will closely coordinate with the following emergency response stakeholders:

- ◆ **Federal Departments and Agencies:** Federal implementation activities of the NECP will occur through DHS's Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) – the federal interagency focal point for interoperable and operable communications coordination.
- ◆ **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments:** As they deem appropriate, state, local, tribal and territorial agencies should align their planning efforts and emergency communications initiatives with the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the NECP.
- ◆ **Private Sector, NGOs, and Volunteer Organizations:** These entities are encouraged to identify NECP implementation activities to advance emergency communications initiatives, coordination, and information sharing, as well as adopt recommendations, as needed.
- ◆ **Partnership and Advisory Groups:** OECs partnership and advisory groups will provide best practices and subject matter expertise on NECP implementation activities, such as strategic and operational initiatives, and will provide support for stakeholder outreach and implementation measurement.

### Key Implementation Assistance

OEC will support stakeholder implementation efforts with various tools, services, and published guidance documents:

- ◆ **Tools and Services:** Communications Asset Survey and Mapping tool, Public Safety Tools database, Communication Unit Leader tracking, and virtual training;
- ◆ **Technical Assistance:** Broadband planning support for NPSBN, NG 9-1-1, dispatch and continuity of operations, and SCIP workshops for broadband and LMR maintenance;
- ◆ **Governance Support:** Workshops and planning assistance to strengthen state bodies and improve coordination with other entities, including 911 Boards, ECPC coordination with FirstNet; and
- ◆ **Grant Guidance:** Annual SAFECOM Grant Guidance to drive implementation of NECP priorities and recommendations.

For more information, or to download a copy of the NECP, please visit [www.dhs.gov/necp](http://www.dhs.gov/necp) or email OEC at [ocnecp@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:ocnecp@hq.dhs.gov).



Department of Homeland Security  
Office of Emergency Communications

[www.dhs.gov/necp](http://www.dhs.gov/necp)

## National Emergency Communications Plan

*Advancing the Nation's Emergency  
Communications Capabilities*

2014



Homeland  
Security

## What Is the National Emergency Communications Plan?

Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to develop and periodically update the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). Housed in DHS's National Protection and Programs Directorate, OEC supports and promotes communications used by emergency responders and government officials to keep America safe, secure, and resilient.

First released in 2008 and revised in 2014, the NECP is a national strategic plan that establishes a vision for the future state of emergency communications. The NECP is stakeholder-driven, and provides recommendations to the emergency response community for maintaining communications during routine operations, as well as disasters and acts of terrorism requiring cross-border, multi-state, and multi-jurisdictional responses.

### The NECP addresses the evolving communications landscape and establishes the following three priorities:

- ◆ Identify areas for improvement in LMR systems;
- ◆ Ensure preparation for adoption and use of broadband technologies; and
- ◆ Enhance coordination across the emergency response community.

## Why is the NECP Important?

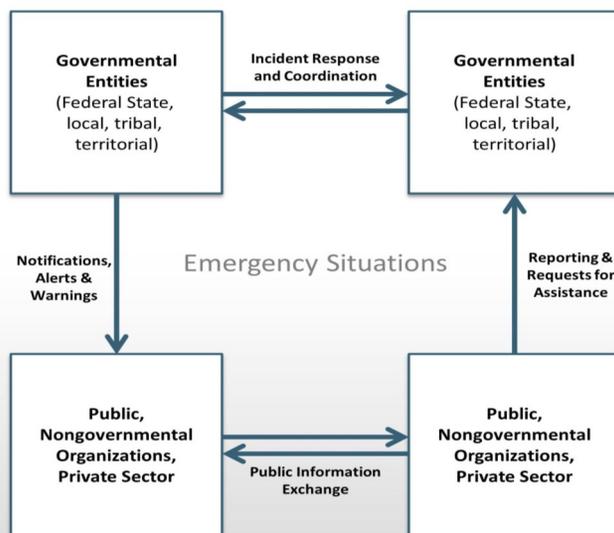
- ◆ Provides critical information and guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, invest in, and use communications to support response and recovery operations.
- ◆ Builds upon the 2008 NECP framework, and seeks to strengthen governance structures, policies, planning, and protocols that support public safety communications and information-sharing under all circumstances.
- ◆ Helps ensure other strategic plans such as statewide communications interoperability plans (SCIPs) are developed using common criteria and best practices identified by stakeholders.
- ◆ Encourages emergency response resource allocations and decision-making that can be supported with technical assistance and stakeholder workshops.
- ◆ Aligns with other stakeholder planning guidance, for example the [Fiscal Year 2014 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#).

## What Are Key Concepts of the NECP?

### *The Evolving Emergency Communications Landscape*

The combination of emerging technologies, new policies, and more stakeholders involved in response operations has significantly changed the emergency communications landscape. A more complex and interdependent environment has emerged, with many communication pathways, benefits, and risks to consider for emergency response planning.

### Emergency Communications Ecosystem



### *Impact on Emergency Response Communications*

The evolving landscape brings new partners into response operations, and new technologies facilitate more sources of communications and information-sharing between entities. For responders, this leads to enhanced situational awareness, coordination, and decision-making. However, it also creates challenges, such as the ability to effectively manage and secure sensitive data and information.

The NECP guidance prepares stakeholders for technological change. It focuses on land mobile radio (LMR) systems, and recognizes the increasing use of Internet Protocol based technologies. This includes broadband applications and services such as streaming video or location-based services; wireless emergency alerts and Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1); and social media to exchange critical information during emergencies.

## NECP Strategic Goals

The NECP aims to help stakeholders keep pace with the evolving environment, realize potential benefits, and address emerging challenges. With the NECP vision as a common end-state, OEC coordinated with more than 350 federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners to establish the Plan's five goals.

The NECP strategic goals target emergency communications capability enhancements at all levels of government in coordination with the private sector, non-government organizations (NGOs), and communities across the Nation. Each goal is supported by at least three objectives, and within each objective there are several actionable recommendations for stakeholders to consider in their emergency communications improvement efforts.

## Emergency Communications Strategy

### VISION

*"To enable the Nation's emergency response community to communicate and share information across levels of government, jurisdictions, disciplines, and organizations for all hazards, as needed and when authorized"*

### GOALS

- Goal 1: Governance and Leadership:** Enhance decision-making, coordination, and planning for emergency communications through strong governance structures and leadership.
- Goal 2: Planning and Procedures:** Update plans and procedures to improve emergency responder communications and readiness in a dynamic operating environment.
- Goal 3: Training and Exercises:** Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communicate through training and exercise programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications.
- Goal 4: Operational Coordination:** Ensure operational effectiveness through the coordination of communications capabilities, resources, and personnel from across the whole community.
- Goal 5: Research and Development:** Coordinate research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to develop innovative emergency communications capabilities that support the needs of emergency responders.

### OBJECTIVES

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation Activities