



Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) Standards, Protocols, Procedures



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1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this Standard is to establish protocols and procedures for planning communications for full-scale or functional exercises and pre-planned events that affect multiple agencies or jurisdictions.

2. Technical Background

Capabilities

The SIRN platform maintains various communications resources to support multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency events and exercises.

Constraints

An established Standard for the use of these shared resources during large events and exercises as well as the availability of qualified personnel to guide their use is essential to successful communications.

3. Operational Context

Full-scale or functional exercises and pre-planned events of any size can include complex communications issues. Therefore, it is important establish robust procedures for communications during such events.

Definitions

- A full scale exercise (FSE) is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, multi-discipline exercise involving a functional and “boots on the ground” response. A functional response could include a joint field office (JFO), emergency operations center (EOC), etc. A “boots on the ground” response could include firefighters or other first responders at a scene, along with mock victims, etc.
- A functional exercise (FE) examines and/or validates the coordination, command, and control between various multi-agency coordination centers, such as an EOC, JFO, etc. A functional exercise does not involve any “boots on the ground” responders.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

SIRN Administrators (at the local, regional and state levels) shall *develop, update and maintain* communications pre-plans for all large events and recurring wide area incidents (e.g., Red River flooding);





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these pre-plans shall appropriately incorporate the use of SIRN resources.

Full-scale or functional exercises and pre-planned events that include multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency disciplines, and use of more than one statewide interoperability talkgroup must engage qualified technical resources or the support of the Statewide System Administrator to establish a communication plan.

System resources need to be considered during exercises to ensure that actual emergency communications aren't compromised. Since full-scale/functional exercises and pre-planned events have the potential to affect system capacity, a regional representative or Statewide System Administrator should ensure that the event does not inadvertently affect normal, daily operational needs by negatively impacting the availability of SIRN resources.

5. Recommended Procedure

When an agency develops a plan for a full-scale/functional exercise or pre-planned event that involves the use of shared SIRN resources, namely the use of more than one regional and statewide interoperability talkgroup, these procedures will be followed:

- Communications plans must be submitted to and obtain the approval of the regional/CRIB administrator
- Ensure the participation of a qualified technical resource to provide guidance on use of the technical resources. Planners can contact the SIRN Statewide System Administrator or designee for assistance.
- Include all impacted state, regional and local user agencies in the exercise development process from the beginning so local system resources are properly utilized
- The completed Communication Plan must be provided to event participants and the Local Agency Administrators.

See SIRN Standard 1.4.0 SIRN - Regional & Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups for additional details on shared SIRN communications resources.

Prior to the full-scale/functional exercise or pre-planned event the Status Board must be utilized to schedule the resources. The requested resource will be reserved on the Status Board at least one week in advance. (See SIRN Standard 1.7.0 SIRN - Status Board).

If modifications to a communications plan need to be implemented during an exercise or event, the incident commander (IC), or appropriate individual may coordinate with the Statewide System Administrator to ensure that needed resources are available.

6. Management

Local System Administrators are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and followed as defined. Identified issues and concerns will be brought to the SIEC SIRN Sub-committee for resolution.