

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE

16.2

August 23, 2012

TO: Concerned Commanding Officers

FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL – REVISED

In the event of a major disaster, the ability of management from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to communicate could be seriously affected due to damage to infrastructure and/or the overload of the telephone systems. The following protocols have been established to support LAPD management-level communications in the event that traditional communications services are disrupted.

This Notice revises Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau Notice, dated September 14, 2011, entitled, "Emergency Communications Protocols." Specifically, the revisions included the listings of the current mutual aid channels and updated information regarding video conferencing capabilities.

Department Radio Command/Staff Channel

Citywide Tactical Channel 1, ASTRO Channel 44, has been designated as the Command/Staff channel in the event of a disaster, and shall be utilized as the primary radio frequency for communications between the Chief of Police, the Director, Office of Operations, the Director, Office of Administrative Services, the Director, Office of Special Operations, the Commanding Officer, Professional Standards Bureau; and all subordinate command officers.

Department Operations Center

In the event of a disaster that impacts traditional communications modalities, the Director of Emergency Operations, Department Operations Center (DOC), shall notify the Watch Commander (W/C), Communications Division (CD), that the Command/Staff channel has been activated. The DOC shall assign a member of the DOC staff to monitor the channel.

Communications Division

Upon notification of the activation of the Command/Staff channel, the CD W/C shall cause a broadcast to be made on all Department frequencies that the Command/Staff channel has been activated. A Police Service Representative shall be assigned to the frequency and all Department entities shall be assigned an alternate frequency.

Command Staff Officers

Upon notification of the activation of the Command/Staff channel or upon the realization that cellular or landline telephone service has been impacted by the disaster, all Command/Staff officers shall contact the DOC on the Command/Staff channel.

Government Emergency Telephone System/Wireless Priority Service

All Captains and above and Civilian Commanding Officers and above shall be issued Government Emergency Telephone System (GETS) cards and have Wireless Priority Service (WPS) added to their cellular devices. The GETS/WPS program is managed by the Department of Homeland Security to provide key personnel access to 15% of commercial telephone service capability retained for internal company and emergency use. In the event Command/Staff officers are unable to connect to the desired telephone number, due to a busy signal or no dial tone, via cellular or landline telephone, the GETS or WPS number should be utilized to complete the priority telephone call.

Text Messaging

Lessons learned from the September 11, 2001, attacks and the Hurricane Katrina response have shown that Short Message Server (SMS) and Personal Identification Number (PIN) text messaging services remained viable when voice systems were inoperable. All Command/Staff officers should familiarize themselves with conventional cellular telephone SMS text messaging and Blackberry SMS/PIN operations. Each Command/Staff officer should ensure that their cellular telephone/Blackberry device contains the appropriate information in order to utilize the SMS or PIN messaging systems. Contact Information Technology Bureau for assistance on accessing the PIN application should it be missing from the "Downloads" folder in the Blackberry menu options.

Microwave Repeater

The City has robust microwave capability through the Information Technology Agency (ITA). The information technology infrastructure allows for the movement of information from any part of the City into its fiber-optic system. It also allows 20 telephone lines to be routed via Mount Lee. In the event of communications infrastructure damage, ITA has four mobile microwave repeater vehicles that can be deployed to re-establish telephone communications.

Video Conferencing

Upon request during an emergency, Incident Command Post Unit, Emergency Management Section (EMS), Emergency Operations Division (EOD), has the ability to deploy the Los Angeles Regional Common Operational Picture Program (LARCOPP) vehicles as well as Deployable Interoperability Communication Equipment (DICE). Both systems are used to establish mobile "hot spots" for communications via Satellite or WI-FI network to facilitate video conferencing.

Emergency Radio Access

When all usual communications capabilities are impaired, it may still be possible to access radio systems during such incidents. The following radio protocols should be attempted sequentially during incidents where a total communications failure has occurred.

Local Mutual Aid Channels

Mutual Aid Channels may be utilized if they are available. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) maintains several channels that are currently programmed into the LAPD radios. These channels are part of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS). The LARTCS provides direct communication interoperability between law enforcement, fire, Emergency Management Service (EMS), Federal, State and military agencies at the scene of a major, multi-agency incident.

These incidents may be short-term (felony pursuits through multiple jurisdictions, fires, hazmat, etc.) or long term (large-scale fire or floods, civil disturbances, terrorist incidents, etc.). Safety of the on-scene personnel involved in these incidents will be enhanced through real-time, unit-to-unit communication. The LARTCS channels are available to any public safety agency within Los Angeles County or the surrounding counties. Keep in mind that during a disaster, these channels may be utilized by other agencies.

In order to utilize these channels, a request must be made to the LASD Communications Center at (323) 881-8100. During an emergency or disaster, and you are unable to utilize a telephone to contact the LASD Communications Center, you may turn your LAPD Radio to Channel 53. This is the LASD Access Channel. This channel is available to all outside agencies. ****NOTE In addition to being the access channel, it is also the primary dispatch channel for the LASD Parks Bureau****

- LARTCS MA/1 – LAPD CHANNEL 54
- LARTCS MA/2 – LAPD CHANNEL 55
- LARTCS MA/3 – LAPD CHANNEL 56
- LARTCS MA/4 – LAPD CHANNEL 57
- LARTCS MA/5 – LAPD CHANNEL 58

NOTE: Mutual Aid Channels operate via a repeater system, have a greater Range and should be utilized first.

Nationwide Mutual Aid Channels

The LAPD is authorized to use several Non-Federal National Interoperability Channels. The U-Call channel is a shared national calling channel, and the U-Tac channels are shared national tactical channels. These channels are for multi-agency responses similar to Fire Ground and Mutual Aid channels. The U-Call and U-Tac channels will allow interoperability between all agencies that have these frequencies in their radios. These channels are shared, and may be utilized by other surrounding agencies, ***and should only be utilized as a last resort.***

- U-CALL40D – LAPD CHANNEL 32 (Simplex / Direct Mode)
- U-TAC-41D – LAPD CHANNEL 33 (Simplex / Direct Mode)
- U-TAC-42D – LAPD CHANNEL 34 (Simplex / Direct Mode)
- U-TAC-43D – LAPD CHANNEL 35 (Simplex / Direct Mode)

NOTE: UHF channels may also be utilized to communicate with radio systems within direct line of sight only. These channels may be used as a last resort to make contact.

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Supervisors shall ensure that this Notice is placed inside the current Area or Divisional Standing Plans and the "*Supervisor's Field Operations Guide*" under the "UO Resources, Laws, and Reports" tab, and be used for reference in the event of a major incident requiring emergency communications protocols.

If there are any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Lieutenant Maria Acosta, Officer in Charge, EMS, EOD, at (213) 486-5730.

APPROVED:



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DISTRIBUTION "B"