

West Virginia Search and Rescue Council Communications Plan

The Communications Plan is a work in progress. It will be revised as the Council obtains more information on results in the field during training and operations. Council Members are encouraged to make suggestions to the Operations Committee Chair and/or the President. – Thank you, The Council.

1. Introduction

1.1. The West Virginia Search and Rescue Council is an organization comprised of diverse search teams located throughout the state. The Council recognizes that effective communication is critical to successful search and rescue operations and this will require a plan. Hereinafter, search and rescue will be referred to as SAR.

2. Factors of Communication

2.1. The Communications Plan will aid the Council in establishing effective communication. The Plan has been developed to address four (4) important factors: interoperability, priority, reliability and availability.

2.1.1. Interoperability requires that different SAR teams will be able to communicate with one another during operations.

2.1.2. Priority deals with the process of handling communications related to SAR.

2.1.3. Reliability is a measure of whether the equipment and systems used by SAR teams are in good working condition.

2.1.4. Availability refers to the SAR teams' access to communications equipment.

3. Communications Plan

3.1. The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG), most recent version available, will serve as the framework for Council communications.

3.2. Responsibilities

3.2.1. Members shall inform the Council of any radio frequencies and channels licensed to them for SAR operations and training.

3.2.2. Members will inform the Council of all communications equipment they have access to for SAR operations and training.

3.2.3. Council will conduct training on interoperability communications for Members. Recommended that this be offered on an annual basis or more often.

3.2.4. Council will facilitate programming Members' radios with interoperability frequencies and channels in accordance with NIFOG.