

ESF #2 - Communications

ESF #2 Coordinator:	Kansas Department of Transportation
Primary Agency:	Kansas Department of Transportation Kansas Highway Patrol The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas National Guard
Support Agencies:	The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management The Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Civil Air Patrol Kansas Department of Administration, Division of Information Systems and Communications Kansas Department of Education Kansas Turnpike Authority Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 – Communications ensures support of state, local and private sector response efforts during a man-made or natural disaster/emergency.

Scope

ESF #2 coordinates actions to provide the required temporary communications to support incident management and facilitates the restoration of the communications infrastructure. ESF #2 supports all state agencies in the procurement and coordination of communications services from the communications and information technology industry during an incident response.

Policies

When activated ESF #2 team members will accomplish one or more preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation actions:

- Access need to pre-stage communications assets for rapid deployment into the affected area;
- Determine what state assets are available and nearest to the affected area(s) by each ESF #2 support agency and the time frame in deploying those assets;

- Coordinate the acquisition and deployment of communications equipment, personnel, and resources to establish temporary communications capabilities within the affected area;
- Monitor disaster information obtained from Kansas Assessment Team, the telecommunications industry, the County Emergency Operations Centers, and other agencies reported through ESF #5 Emergency Management;
- Deploy the Kansas Highway Patrol Emergency Command Center and the Kansas National Guard Communication Centers, if required, to coordinate with local and county emergency response agencies in the affected area;
- Assess the need for and obtain telecommunications industry support as required;
- Prioritize the deployment of services based on available resources and critical needs;
- Coordinate communications support to all governmental, Non-Government Organizations (NGO'S) and volunteer agencies as required;
- Issue appropriate warnings using all available systems;
- Deploy Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT) portable tower teams, as required;
- Assemble a listing of all state communications assets available to support a recovery mission. Furthermore, availability, operational condition, and duration of need must be considered. Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans; and
- Support the establishment of staging areas, distribution sites, the Joint Field Office (JFO), Disaster Recovery Centers, Joint Information Centers (JIC), and the deployment of other local, state, and federal recovery facilities and emergency workers in the impacted area, if required.

Concept of Operations

General

The KDOT is designated as the coordinator for ESF #2. As ESF coordinator, KDOT and KDEM coordinates meetings, plans, exercises, training, and other activities with, the private sector, and the ESF #2 support agencies.

Organization

The KDEM provides the leadership and management of the ESF with those identified supporting agencies providing an equal, but subordinate role for supporting ESF #2 operations.

During an emergency or disaster, the primary and support agencies of ESF #2 will assign personnel to the SEOC. ESF #2 will respond directly to the Infrastructure Branch Chief who reports to the Operations Section Chief.

Notifications

- KDEM will notify the ESF #2 agencies when an area of Kansas is threatened or has been impacted by an emergency or disaster event;
- The designated agencies notified will report to the SEOC if so advised or requested by the KDEM; and
- The agencies designated to report to the SEOC will notify their agency personnel of the impending or actual event.

Actions

Once activated in the SEOC, ESF #2 team members on duty will accomplish one or more preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation actions. The following is a list of those actions:

- **Preparedness**
 - Identify communications facilities, equipment, and personnel located in and outside the affected area that could be made available to support response and recovery efforts; and
 - Begin accessing needs to pre-stage communications assets for rapid deployment into the affected area.
- **Response**
 - Identify the actual and planned actions of commercial telecommunications companies to restore services;
 - Determine what assets are available and nearest to the affected area(s) by each ESF #2 support agency and the time frame in deploying those assets;
 - Coordinate the acquisition and deployment of communications equipment, personnel, and resources to establish temporary communications capabilities within the affected area;
 - Accumulate disaster information obtained from Kansas Assessment Team, the telecommunications industry, the County Emergency Operations Centers, and other agencies and report that information through ESF #5;
 - Deploy the Kansas Highway Patrol Emergency Command Center and the Kansas National Guard Communication Centers to coordinate with local and county emergency response agencies in the affected area;
 - Assess the need for and obtain telecommunications industry support as required;
 - Prioritize the deployment of services based on available resources and critical needs;
 - Coordinate communications support to all governmental, quasi-governmental and volunteer agencies as required;
 - Issue appropriate warnings using all systems that are necessary. All warnings will continue until such time as they are no longer required; and

- Deploy KDOT's portable tower teams.
- **Recovery**
 - Assemble a listing of all state communications assets available to support a recovery mission. Other volunteer and local agencies with communications assets may be requested to contribute assets to the response effort. Industrial resources may also be considered for availability and effectiveness. Furthermore, availability, operational condition, and duration of need must be considered. The logistical requirements necessary to obtain critically needed equipment will also be evaluated;
 - Evaluate and task the transportation support requests for impacted areas;
 - Generate in a timely manner, information to be included in the SEOC briefings, situation reports, and/or action plans;
 - Plan and prepare the notification systems to support the establishment of staging areas, distribution sites, the JFO, Disaster Recovery Centers, JIC, the deployment of other local, state, and federal recovery facilities and emergency workers in the impacted area;
 - Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to cover an activation of the SEOC for an extended period of time;
 - Maintain appropriate records of work schedules and costs incurred by ESF #2 agencies during an event;
 - Seek information concerning the projected date the SEOC will deactivate; and
 - Tasked staff will clean, repair, and perform maintenance on all equipment before returning to normal operation or to storage.
- **Prevention**
 - This ESF provides feedback to Kansas Mitigation Team and supporting state agencies and voluntary organizations concerning activities and issues that need to be addressed. KDEM is the primary agency responsible for the State implementation plan for communications services.

Direction and Control

- Activities will be coordinated through the SEOC that will serve as the source of all direction and control;
- The Adjutant General (TAG) or Administrator of KDEM provides direction and control for ESF #2 to include mission assignments, mutual aid, Kansas Emergency Response Team (KERT), contracts for goods and services, radiological emergencies, and recovery and mitigation activities;
- ESF #2 falls within the Infrastructure Branch Chief's arena;
- Agencies of ESF #2 may serve the KERT in Field Operations (i.e., the Kansas Assessment Team, JFO operations, Disaster Recovery Center operations, intrastate and/or interstate mutual aid assistance, etc.);

- When a request for assistance is received by ESF #2 it is assigned to the agency or agencies that have the most appropriate resources and expertise to accomplish the task;
- KDEM will assist in the coordination of federal response efforts under the provisions of a Presidential Disaster Declaration; and
- The warning process may be activated from any of several points in the system including KDEM, Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP), and the National Weather Service. Once the network is activated, KDEM assumes the responsibility for its continued operation. All warnings activated will be coordinated through the SEOC.

Responsibilities

KDEM is designated as the coordinator for ESF #2. As ESF coordinator, KDEM coordinates meetings, plans, exercises, training, and other activities with the private sector and the ESF #2 support agencies.

Kansas Department of Transportation

- Provide emergency communications through use of vehicle-to-base and base-to-base communications throughout the state;
- Deploy KDOT emergency response portable towers to coordinate with local county emergency agencies in the affected area; and
- Provide available communications resources for emergency response agencies in the affected area.

Kansas Highway Patrol

- Assist in the severe weather warning process, as resources permit, by reporting the occurrence of severe weather events to the appropriate County Emergency Operations Center;
- Assist in alerting local law enforcement agencies of emergency situations;
- Assist in early warning for communities and rural areas where no organized storm warning systems are available;
- Provide backup assistance if requested, to local law enforcement with additional siren and public address equipped mobile units to supplement sound coverage;
- Provide additional staffing to local law enforcement if requested, to conduct door-to-door warning if necessary;
- Provide emergency communications for the Governor, KDEM, and law enforcement personnel in the field; and
- Deploy the Kansas Highway Patrol Emergency Command Center to coordinate with local and county emergency response agencies in the affected area.

The Adjutant General's Department

Kansas National Guard

- Provide radio support communications through guard units, aircraft, field radio, public address systems and Kansas Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS);
- Deploy the Kansas National Guard Communication Suite to coordinate with local and county emergency response agencies in the affected area; and
- Provide radio support to KDEM in the SEOC.

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

- Provide notification of any emergency to the Governor and other state agencies as required;
- Provide notification of a hazardous materials spill;
- Alert state officials as needed;
- If necessary, use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to disseminate warnings and emergency notifications to radio and television stations for transmission to the listening and viewing public; and
- Notify Local Emergency Management Coordinators, state and local agencies, volunteers of emerging threats and incident activities.

Kansas Civil Air Patrol

- Provide radio and airborne communications support to response organizations and others as required.

The Department of Administration

Division of Information Systems and Communications

- Coordinate and manage ESF #2 activities with the other components of the KERT; and
- Provide network and telecommunications support for forward deployed state agencies.

Kansas Department of Education

- Provide interactive television facilities that enable individuals to communicate with others at different sites in Kansas.

Kansas Turnpike Authority

- Provide emergency communications assistance through the use of a microwave radio system.

Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services

- Provide communication between county, state, and federal agencies when normal communications systems have been interrupted.