

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

**Coordinating**

Yakima Valley Emergency Management (YVEM)  
Yakima County Sheriff’s Office (YSO)

**Primary**

Yakima Valley Emergency Management  
Public Safety Dispatch Centers (SunComm, YSO Dispatch, Fire District #5 Dispatch)

**Support**

Fire Services  
Greater Columbia 2-1-1 (People for People)  
Law Enforcement  
Yakima County ARES/RACES  
Yakima County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)  
Yakima County Technology Services

**Other Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) or Recovery Functions exist that coordinate with or support this ESF:**

- On the ESF Core Capabilities Matrix, find Primary core capabilities (P) within this ESF and then move vertically and add all Supporting (S) core capabilities and equate them to ESFs.
- Next find all Supporting (S) ESFs in the column and then move horizontally along each row of a Supporting (S) core capability to find all Primary (P) ESFs.

ESF 1	ESF 3	ESF 4	ESF 5	ESF 7	ESF 10	ESF 12	ESF 14	ESF 15	Infrastructure Systems	Economic Recovery
Response									Recovery	
Supports										
<b>ESF 2</b>										

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To provide guidance for rapid alerting and/or warning to key local jurisdiction officials, emergency responders, and the general public of an impending or occurring emergency or disaster.
- 1.2. To provide guidance for organizing, establishing, and maintaining the telecommunications and information system capabilities necessary to meet the operational requirements of local jurisdictions in responding to, and recovering from, emergencies and disasters.

Primary Core Capabilities	
Shared Response and Recovery Mission Areas	
Infrastructure Systems	Stabilize critical infrastructure functions, minimize health and safety threats, and efficiently restore and revitalize systems and services to support a viable, resilient community.
Response Mission Area	

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

<b>Primary Core Capabilities</b>	
Operational Communications	Ensure the capacity for timely communications in support of security, situational awareness, and operations, by any and all means available, among and between affected communities in the impact area and all response forces.

<b>Support Core Capabilities</b>	
<b>Response Mission Area</b>	
Public Information & Warning	Deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat or hazard and, as appropriate, the actions being taken, and the assistance being made available.

<b>Support Core Capabilities</b>	
<b>Recovery Mission Areas</b>	
Economic Recovery	Return economic and business activities (including food and agriculture) to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in an economically viable community.

**2. Policies**

- 2.1. This plan will govern Yakima County communications warning activities related to mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies or disasters.
- 2.2. Communications and warning support requirements that cannot be met at the Yakima County level will be referred to Washington State Emergency Management Division (WAEMD).

**3. Situation Overview**

- 3.1. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) operates through designated radio and television stations. Yakima County is in the Yakima Valley Operational Area. The designated EAS (or Local Priority) radio stations are KFFM (FM 107.3) and KIT (AM 1280) in Yakima, both owned by Townsquare Media. It is intended to provide federal, state, and local jurisdictions with the means to disseminate prompt, reliable emergency information, instructions, and warning in the event of local, state, or national emergencies. Local radio broadcaster’s participation for most warnings is voluntary. The EAS may also be used by law enforcement to provide Abducted Minor Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) alert.
- 3.2. Organizations which have their own communications systems may assist in supporting the emergency communication needs of the Yakima County EOC (YCEOC), or local jurisdictional ECC and general government.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

3.2.1. The Yakima Valley Emergency Management (YVEM) has 40 Motorola XTS 2500 handheld radios that are available to Incident Commanders; 20 are maintained at YVEM; an additional 20 are located at Lower Valley Fire District #5 Dispatch in Sunnyside.

3.3. Activation of the YCEOC and available communication systems and resources. One or more of these networks may need to be utilized in addition to primary voice telephone capability, to establish both primary and backup communication between the Yakima County EOC and the WAEMD SEOC. The following systems are available:

Priority Radio Systems - Mutual Aid, Interoperability, Direction and Control, & Monitor	Frequency	Call Sign
<b>Very High Frequency</b>		
CEMNET (Pri - Ch2/F2) - Clemens Mtn (WNUD825)	45.360 MHz	KOM 557
CEMNET (Alt - Ch3/F3) - Burch Mtn (WNUD825)	45.480 MHz	KOM 557
On-Scene Control/Coordination (OSCCR)	156.135 MHz	
Search and Rescue (SAR)	155.160 MHz	
Law Enforcement (LERN)	155.370 MHz	
National LE Comm System (NLECS) (EAS Radio Relay Only)	155.475 MHz	
Fire Mutual Aid (FIRECOM)	153.830 MHz	
Fire (DNR Common)	151.415 MHz	
EMS/Trauma (HEAR) - Medical Control	155.340 MHz	
Civil Air Patrol (CAP)	148.150 MHz	
NOAA Weather Radio (Yakima - Ahtanum Ridge)	162.550 MHz	KIG75
NOAA Weather Radio (Richland)	162.450 MHz	WWF56
<b>High Frequency</b>		
RACES HF (WA Emergency Network)	3.985 MHz (LSB)	WA7EOC
RACES HF (WAEN - Digital Packet-24hr)	3.624 MHz (LSB)	WA7EOC

**4. Concept of Operations**

- 4.1. An assessment of the countywide communications infrastructure will be conducted, and the information analyzed, to determine the feasibility/operability of landline, cellular, emergency communications systems and electronic communications in the affected area(s).
- 4.2. The status of communications technology and resources will be disseminated widely among emergency response agencies. Warnings or notifications will be made through SunComm 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, through Yakima Valley Emergency Management or through the Yakima County Emergency Operations Center (YCEOC) when activated.
- 4.3. Public service announcements about status of communications and the established procedure for obtaining help in the event of an emergency will be disseminated in the most appropriate and

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

effective manner to reach the largest audiences, consistent with the technology or resources available for use.

4.4. Priority repair will be focused on restoring communications to critical infrastructure, then to the areas that will affect the largest number of people.

**4.5. Whole Community Involvement**

4.5.1. ESF #2 is concerned with getting proper emergency or incident information out to the public. An Emergency Notification System (ENS) provides immediate geographical warning and information to Yakima County residents and businesses through a web-based call-out system from Everbridge, called Alert Yakima. Citizens can ‘opt-in’ and provide additional contact information: unlisted phone numbers, cell phone numbers, email, text messaging (SMS) and Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TTY). YVEM has generated English and Spanish emergency notification templates for use within Everbridge.

4.5.2. The Whole Community includes populations with individuals with disabilities and Access and Functional Needs (AFN). Any agency or organization that receives federal funding is required to have a plan or policy for addressing the needs of individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), pursuant to Title VI, the Civil Rights Act. The Washington State Emergency Management Division and this ESF expects all agencies and organizations to comply with federal law. For more information on how each agency or organization complies with federal law, please contact the individual agency or organization.

**4.6. Critical Tasks**

Mission Area	Critical Task I.D.	Critical Tasks
<b>Operational Communications</b>		
Response	<b>1</b>	Ensure the capacity to communicate with both the emergency response community and the affected populations and establish interoperable voice and data communications between Federal, tribal, state, and local first responders.
	<b>2</b>	Re-establish sufficient communications infrastructure within the affected areas to support ongoing life-sustaining activities, provide basic human needs, and a transition to recovery.
	<b>3</b>	Re-establish critical information networks, including cybersecurity information sharing networks, to inform situational awareness, enable incident response, and support the resilience of key systems.

Mission Area	Critical Task I.D.	Critical Tasks
<b>Infrastructure Systems</b>		
Response	<b>1</b>	Decrease and stabilize immediate infrastructure threats to the affected population, to include survivors in the heavily damaged zone, nearby communities that may be affected by cascading effects, and mass care support facilities and evacuation processing centers with a focus on life-sustainment and congregate care services.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

Mission Area	Critical Task I.D.	Critical Tasks
<b>Infrastructure Systems</b>		
	<b>2</b>	Re-establish critical infrastructure within the affected areas to support ongoing emergency response operations, life sustainment, community functionality, and a transition to recovery.
Recovery	<b>1</b>	Restore and sustain essential services (public and private) to maintain community functionality.
	<b>2</b>	Develop a plan with a specified timeline for redeveloping community infrastructures to contribute to resiliency, accessibility, and sustainability.

Mission Area	Critical Task I.D.	Critical Tasks
<b>Public Information &amp; Warning</b>		
Response	<b>1</b>	Inform all affected segments of society of critical lifesaving and life-sustaining information, including accessible tools, to expedite the delivery of emergency services and aid the public to take protective actions.
	<b>2</b>	Deliver credible and actionable messages to inform ongoing emergency services and the public about protective measures and other life-sustaining actions and facilitate the transition to recovery.

Mission Area	Critical Task I.D.	Critical Tasks
<b>Economic Recovery</b>		
Recovery	<b>1</b>	Conduct a preliminary assessment of economic issues and identify potential inhibitors to fostering stabilization of the affected communities.

**5. Organization**

- 5.1. Emergency telecommunications and warning for Yakima County is coordinated through the YCEOC. The Policy/Decision Group, the YVEM Director/YCEOC Manager, or the lead Public Information Officer/Joint Information Center must authorize or approve all outgoing alerts, warnings, and press releases. (See ESF 5 – Emergency Management, and ESF 15 – Public Affairs)
  
- 5.2. The ESF #2 position provides subject-matter expertise to other EOC positions. Based on potential need, this ESF may operate on a 24-hour basis. Supporting agencies have representatives available physically at the county EOC or by any electronic means available on a 24-hour basis while ESF #2 is operational.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

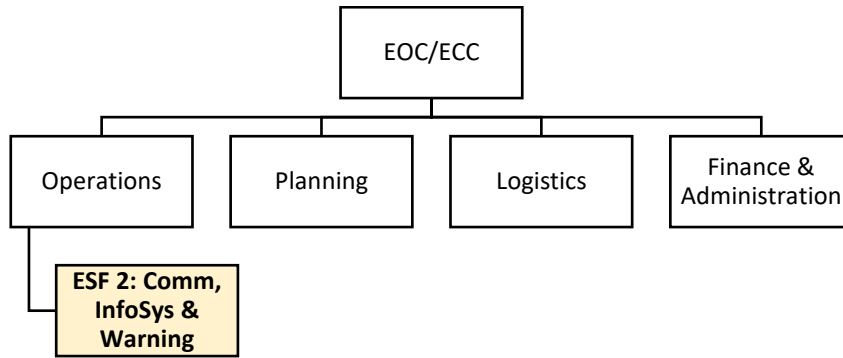


Figure 1: YCEOC, ESF #2, Organizational Chart Example

**6. Direction, Control, & Coordination**

- 6.1. Communication capabilities available to departments, agencies and jurisdictions (fire, law enforcement, public works, etc.) within the county include their normal two-way radios, standard telephone systems, facsimiles, and cellular phones. Local jurisdictional first responders have tactical and operational control of any incident involving a single agency. The Public Safety Dispatches (e.g. SunComm 911, YSO Dispatch, Fire District #5 Dispatch, etc.) coordinate emergency response communications within the county.
- 6.2. Support agencies/groups are responsible for maintaining their plans and training in coordination with this ESF. When requested by YCEOC, they will provide communications equipment and personnel as needed, and as available, in accordance with their primary mission or responsibilities.

**7. Information Collection, Analysis, & Dissemination**

- 7.1. Information collection on communication systems status will be coordinated through ESF #2 and the YCEOC or other designated point as appropriate to the incident.
- 7.2. The local Incident Commander (IC) or designee is responsible for providing situation reports and periodic updates to keep the YCEOC informed. YCEOC, YVEM, or designee, shall provide situation reports to local support agencies/jurisdiction ECCs and the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WAEMD) – State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as appropriate.
- 7.3. Jurisdiction, agency, private-sector, non-governmental, and volunteer organization representatives within the YCEOC will assist with meeting the information collection, analysis, and dissemination needs/methods of the JIC and YCEOC. This will include maintaining contact with their local PIOs for reports and updates.
- 7.4. Some incoming information/requests into the YCEOC may require a vetting process through the Policy Group and the YCEOC Manager due to legal, policy, ethical, or other concerns.
- 7.5. The YCEOC will be responsible for collection, analysis, and dissemination of the latest incident information as depicted in Figure 2: YCEOC Information Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination process.

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE**

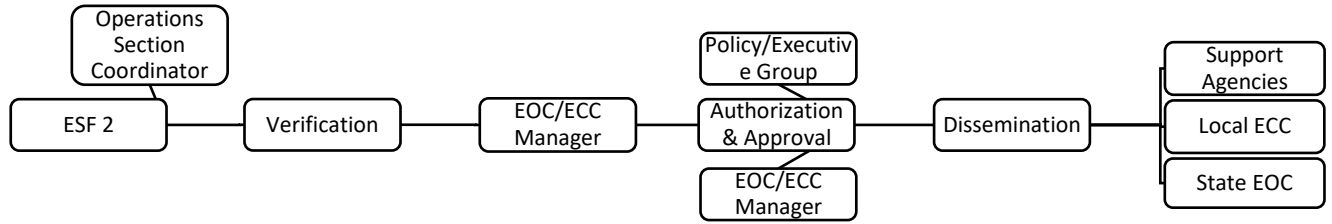


Figure 2: YCEOC Information Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination

**8. Responsibilities**

Response Mission Area			
Core Capability	Critical Task I.D.	Activity/Action	Organization(s) Name
<b>Operational Communications</b>	1	Establish sufficient temporary mobile or transportable telecommunications equipment.	Primary Organization - YVEM
			Appropriate EOC/ECC
<b>Operational Communications</b>	1	Provides redundant and backup communication support.	Yakima ARES/RACES
<b>Operational Communications</b>	2, 3	Re-establish critical information networks to inform situational awareness, enable incident response, and support the resilience of key systems.	Yakima County Technical Services Yakima County GIS
<b>Operational Communications</b>	3	Maintain cyber security Critical Controls, updated regularly by The Consortium of Cybersecurity Action (CCA).	Yakima County Technical Services
<b>Infrastructure Systems</b>	1, 2	Provide communications equipment, personnel, support as needed, and as available, in accordance with their primary mission or responsibilities.	Greater Columbia 2-1-1
			Yakima County GIS
			Yakima County Technical Services
<b>Infrastructure Systems</b>	2	Establish preliminary damage assessment status regarding communication infrastructure.	Primary Organization – YVEM Law Enforcement
<b>Public Information &amp; Warning</b>	1, 2	Assist with the dissemination of information regarding the status of communications and any call to actions.	Greater Columbia 2-1-1
<b>Public Information &amp; Warning</b>	1, 2	Disseminate public service announcements and warnings as requested. Coordinate with ESF #15.	Primary Organization – YVEM
			Public Safety Dispatch Centers (SunComm 911)

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

Response Mission Area			
Core Capability	Critical Task I.D.	Activity/Action	Organization(s) Name
Public Information & Warning	1, 2	Update Greater Columbia 2-1-1 on incident talking points for public Information and Referral.	Primary Organization – YVEM
Public Information & Warning	2	Inform the chain of command (e.g. Chief Elected Official) and ongoing emergency services of any major communications infrastructure damage that would affect the emergency communications of the county.	Primary Organization – YVEM
			Primary Organization – Yakima Sheriff’s Office

Recovery Mission Area			
Core Capability	Critical Task I.D.	Activity/Action	Organization(s) Name
Infrastructure Systems	1	Continue to utilize primary and alternate communication and warning systems to coordinate recovery activities.	All Primary and Support Organizations
Infrastructure Systems	2	Develop a plan in coordination with supporting partners with a specified timeline for redeveloping community.	Primary Organization – YVEM
Economic Recovery	1	Conduct a preliminary assessment of economic issues and continue to utilize primary and alternate communication and warning systems to foster priority stabilization.	Primary Organization – YVEM

**9. Resource Requirements**

Resources	Providers
Desktop or Laptop	Yakima County EOC (may bring home agency laptop)
WebEOC login (Guest account)	Primary Agency/Organization
Contact list (phone & email) of organizations (master list)	Yakima County EOC or Home Agency/Organization
Internet and folder drive access	Yakima County EOC
Appropriate Home Agency/Org SOPs (hard & soft copies)	Primary Agency/Organization
Desk Phone	Yakima County EOC
Tiered communication structure with Incident Management Teams (IMT)	Yakima County EOC
Two-way Radio	Yakima County EOC or Home Organization
ARES/RACES Radio Equipment	Yakima County EOC
<b>Training</b>	<b>Providers</b>



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

E/G0191 (Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface)	Various locations (in-residence)
IS 100, 200, 700, 800	FEMA Emergency Management Institute (online)
ICS 300, 400	Various locations (in-residence)
Position Training	Yakima Valley Emergency Management

**10. References and Supporting Plans**

- 10.1. [ESF 1](#) – Transportation, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.2. [ESF 3](#) – Public Works and Engineering, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.3. [ESF 4](#) – Firefighting, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.4. [ESF 5](#) – Emergency Management, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.5. [ESF 7](#) – Resource Support, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.6. [ESF 10](#) – Oil and Hazardous Materials, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.7. [ESF 12](#) – Energy, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.8. [ESF 14](#) – Long-Term Recovery, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.9. [ESF 15](#) – Public Affairs, Yakima County CEMP
- 10.10. [Chapter 38.52](#) Revised Code of Washington (RCW)
- 10.11. [FEMA Manual 211-2-1](#) January 30, 2018, National Warning System (NAWAS) Operations
- 10.12. [FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97 Amateur Radio Service, Subpart E – Providing Emergency Communications](#)
- 10.13. [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 480.120.412](#) – Major outages regarding telecommunications providers
- 10.14. [Washington State CEMP, Emergency Support Function #2](#) – Communications
- 10.15. [National Emergency Communications Plan, 2014](#) – Provides information and guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, invest in, and use operable and interoperable communications for response and recovery operations. To address the rapidly evolving emergency communications landscape, the NECP emphasizes the need to enhance and update the policies, governance structures, plans, and protocols that enable responders to communicate and share information under all circumstances.

**11. Terms and Definitions**

- 11.1. [Amateur Radio Emergency Services \(ARES\)](#) – Licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local Yakima County ARES/RACES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.
- 11.2. [Comprehensive Emergency Management Network \(CEMNET\)](#) – An emergency management radio system that is the primary backup communication link between the state EOC and local EOC's throughout the state. It also serves as a link to other agencies such as the state departments of Ecology and Health, the UW Seismology Lab, and Harborview Medical Center.
- 11.3. [Emergency Coordination Center \(ECC\)](#) – Yakima County municipalities, i.e., cities and towns, have established an ECC for local Disaster coordination. Fire and School Districts should establish their own ECC and coordinate with the appropriate municipal ECC. Keep the YCEOC/ECC informed of activities, and maintain a communications link, i.e., phone, cell phone, or radio, to the YCEOC/ECC.
- 11.4. [Incident Management Team \(IMT\)](#) - Provides on-scene incident management support during incidents or events that exceed a jurisdiction's or agency's capability or capacity.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION  
2: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, & WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

- 11.5. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) – A special phase of amateur operation sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides radio communications for civil-preparedness purposes only, during periods of local, regional or national emergencies.
  - 11.5.1. Although RACES and ARES are separate entities it is common for participating amateurs to maintain dual membership in both organizations. The RACES regulations make it simple and possible for an ARES group whose members are all enrolled in and certified by RACES to operate in an emergency with great flexibility.
- 11.6. WebEOC – Web-based software that is designed to bring real-time crisis information management to local or state Emergency Coordination/Operation Centers. It provides secure, real-time access to details of operations in the local jurisdiction, neighboring jurisdictions, including regional, state and national data vital to the efficient management of any contingency (e.g., weather trends, satellite images, mapping information, and local, regional or national resource status).
- 11.7. Yakima County Emergency Operations Center (YCEOC) – Central coordination point for county-wide multi-jurisdiction disaster support. Keeps local ECCs and WA SEOC informed of activities, and maintains a communications link, i.e., phone, cell phone, or radio, to the ECC/SEOC. Located in the Yakima County Resource Center, 2403 South 18<sup>th</sup> St., Union Gap, WA 98903