FCC Regulatory Authority Over Public Safety Communications

To promote safety of life and property through the use of communications services, by:

• Identification and allocation of public safety spectrum
• Licensing of all state, local, and tribal public safety radio systems
• Technical rules to promote reliable, interoperable public safety radio communications
• Regulation of interference to public safety operations, including from commercial systems
• Supporting emergency preparedness and response activities
• Serving as a resource and information clearinghouse on issues of public safety and homeland security
U.S. Federal Response Structures

- All incidents start as local incidents
- Three levels for Federal response
  - National (NRCC)
  - Regional (RRCC)
  - Local (Joint Field Office)
- FEMA organizes and activates Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
  - “Mission Assignments” task and reimburse agencies to do work and deploy personnel
- ESF#2: Communications
  - DHS and FEMA lead
  - We are a “supporting” agency
  - Government and Industry coordination
  - ESF#2 coordinates with other ESFs: energy, transportation, etc.
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
FCC Incident Management: Pre-Game

- Response planning
  - Incident Management Handbook
  - Continuity of Operations
  - Continuity of Government

- Public Alerting
  - EAS
  - WEA

- Public Safety Licensing
- 911/E911/NG911
- Resiliency initiatives
FCC Incident Management: HQ

- Disaster Information Response System (DIRS) / Network Outage Reporting System (NORS)
- Special Temporary Authorities
- Waivers
- Coordination & Info Sharing
  - DHS: FEMA, National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications
  - PSAPs and State 9-1-1 administrators
  - National Telecommunications and Information Administration
  - Broadcast Associations
  - Accessibility

![Map Image](image1)

![Chart Image](image2)
FCC Incident Management: Field

- **ESF#2 staffing**
  - Damage Assessment
  - Frequency Coordination

- **On-site RF: Project Roll Call**
  - Scan and analyze: Land mobile radio, TV, AM/FM

- **Remote RF:**
  - High Frequency Direction Finding
  - National Shared Remote Equipment Network

- **Cellular Situational Awareness (developing)**
Industry Coordination and Carrier Actions

• Preparedness
  • Emergency Operations Centers
  • Pre-stage fuel, parts and personnel
  • Drills and exercises

• Deployable assets
  • Cell on Wheels (COW)
  • Cell on Light Truck (COLT)
  • Restoration assets

• Wireless Resiliency Framework
  • Roaming
  • Mutual Aid
  • Increasing municipal preparedness
    • Aid to PSAPs, state EOCs
  • Increasing consumer preparedness
  • Public awareness of service and restoration (e.g. public DIRS info)

• Typical industry requests:
  • Power, access, security
Disaster preparedness and public safety is an IB priority:

- Promote best practices and capacity building through regional and international organizations (CITEL, ITU)
- Promote regional cooperation and coordination through CITEL, including identifying points of contact for emergency communications issues in NRAs.
- Provide *ad hoc* bilateral support to regulatory counterparts in case of a disaster (Haiti)
- Frequent engagement with regulators and policymakers through USTTI and IVP program