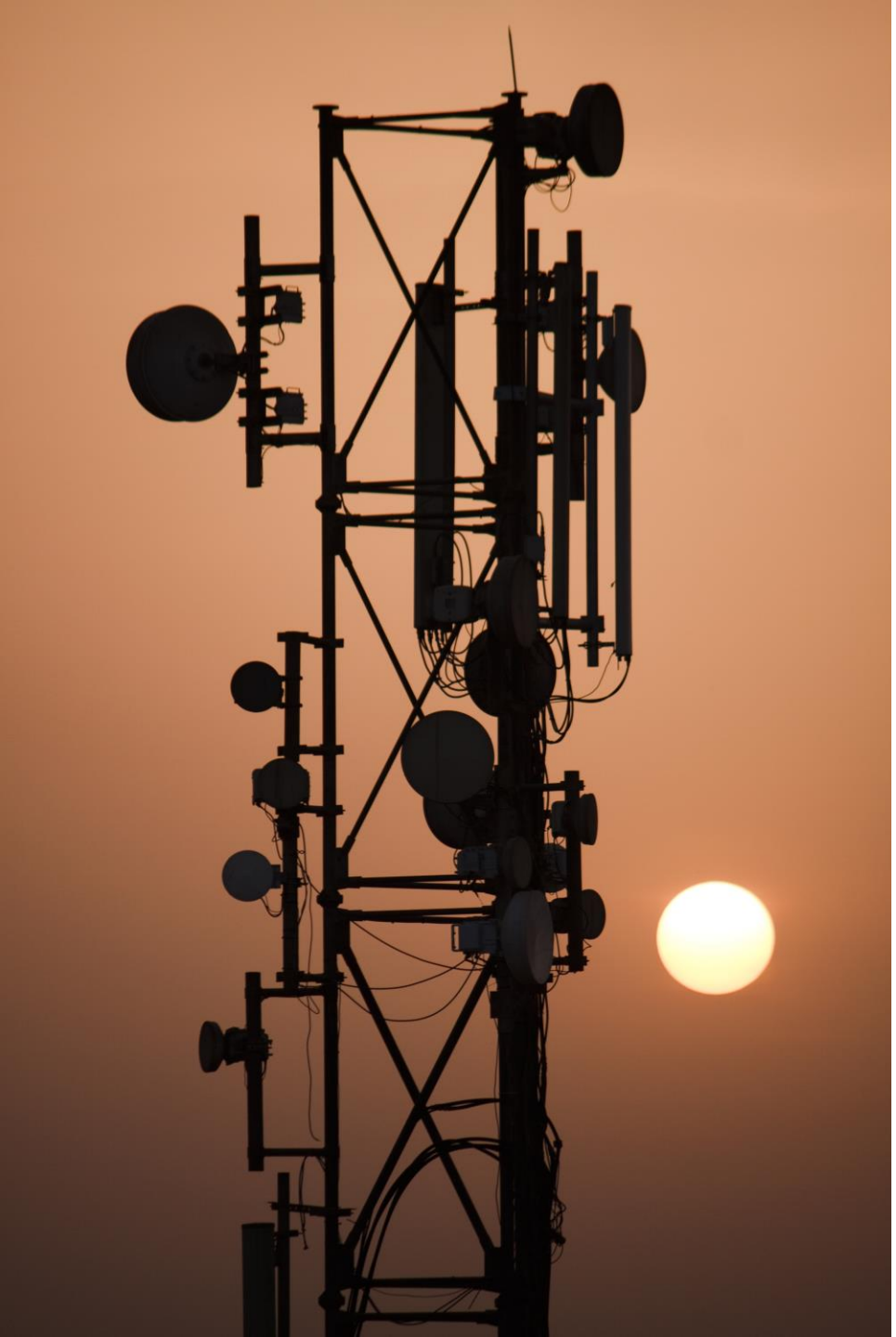
Region 10
Disaster Emergency Communications

Introduction to Federal Response Operations - Emergency Support Function #2 - Communications

2022 SEA-PAC 40th Anniversary

FEMA

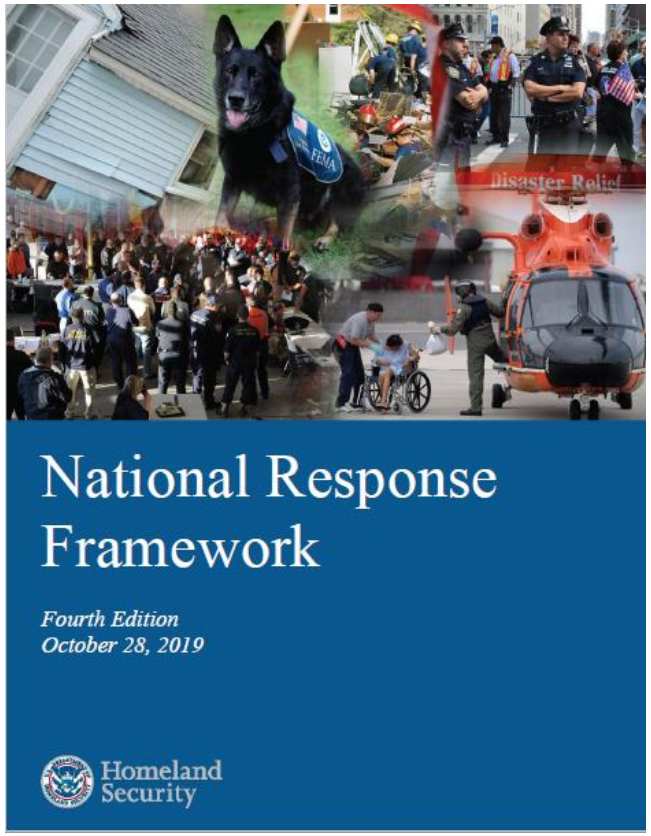
June 3, 2022
Seaside, OR



Objectives

- Understand the purpose and scope of ESF 2
- Understand of the differences between the Communications Unit & ESF 2
- Overview of the typical activities conducted by the ESF 2 Organization

National Response Framework



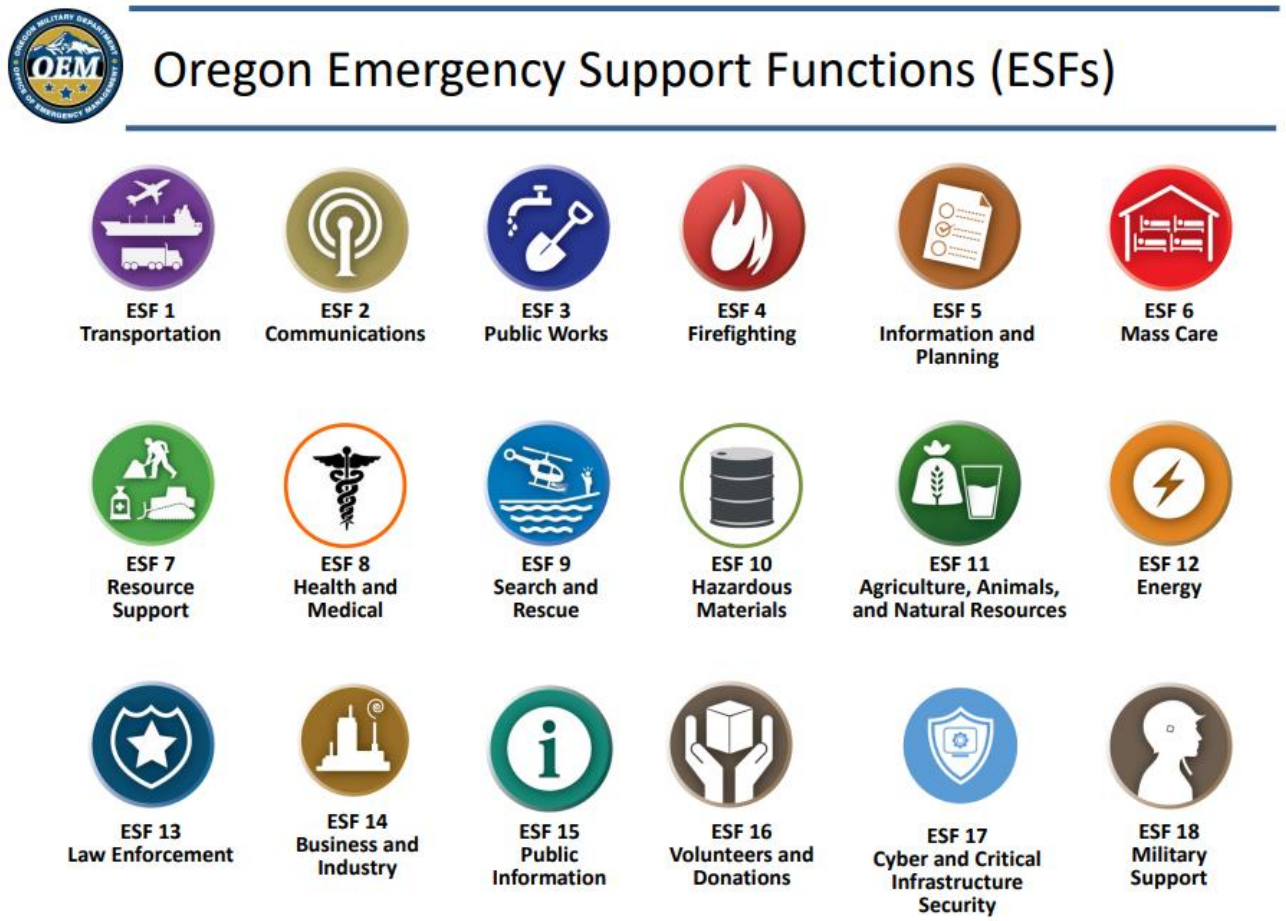
- Establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response
- Presents an overview of key response principles, roles, and structures that guide the national response
- Includes Core Document, Annexes, and Partner Guides

Emergency Support Functions - ESF

- 1 – Transportation
- 2 – Communications
- 3 – Public Works & Engineering
- 4 – Firefighting
- 5 – Information & Planning
- 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, Human Services
- 7 – Logistics
- 8 - Public Health & Medical Services
- 9 – Search & Rescue
- 10 – Oil & Hazardous Materials
- 11 – Ag, Animals, & Natural Resources
- 12 – Energy
- 13 – Public Safety & Security
- 14 – Cross Sector Business & Infrastructure
- 15 – External Affairs

ESFs – States may operate differently

- WA – ESF 20 Military
- OR – ESFs 16, 17, 18
- ID - ESFs
- AK – Uses ICS not ESF



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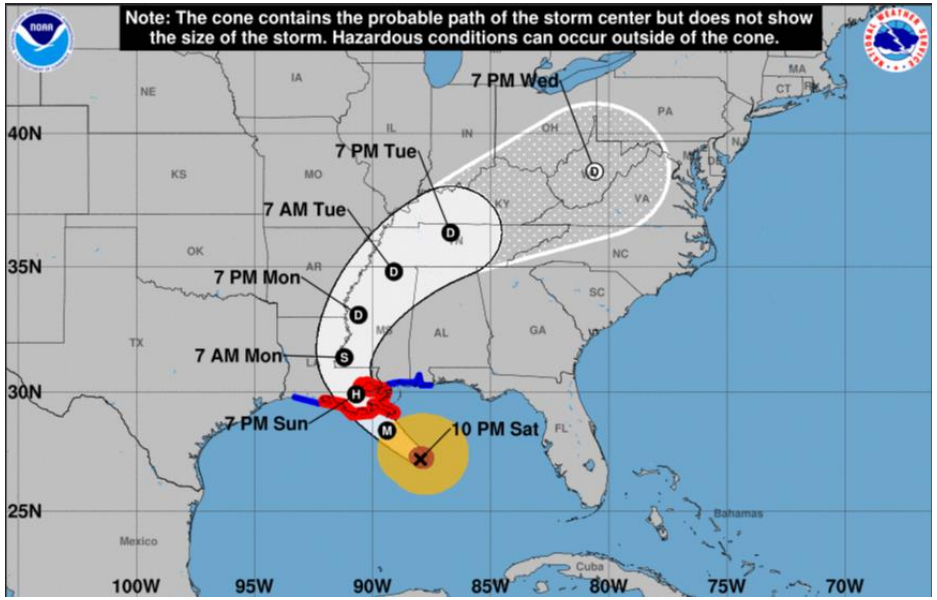
ESF Activations

- Stafford Act declarations take time
  - Emergency Declarations
  - Major Disaster
    - https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared
  - Surge activities
    - Allows positioning of resources prior to event.
      i.e.: Hurricanes
  - Other National level events – Security Events, etc.



Not all events require the activation of all ESFs

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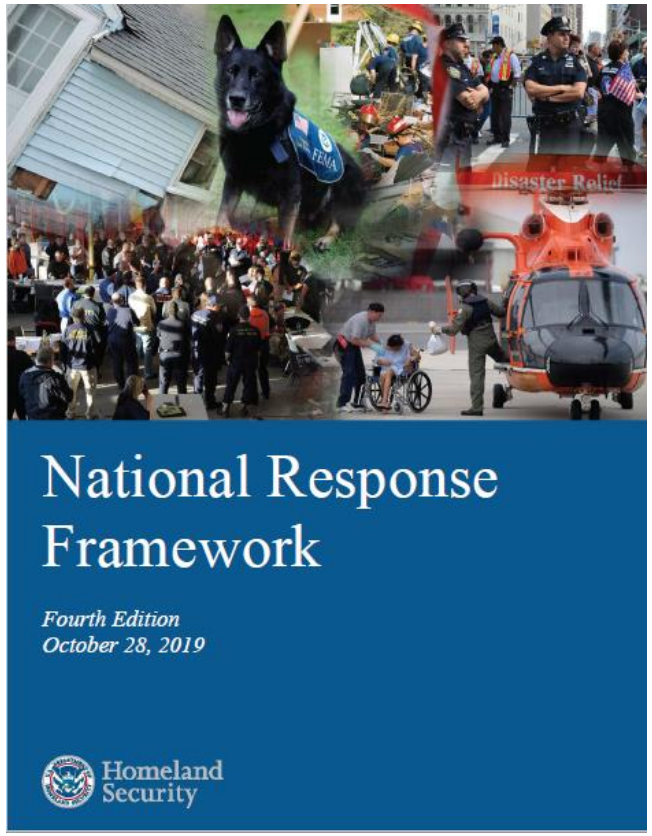
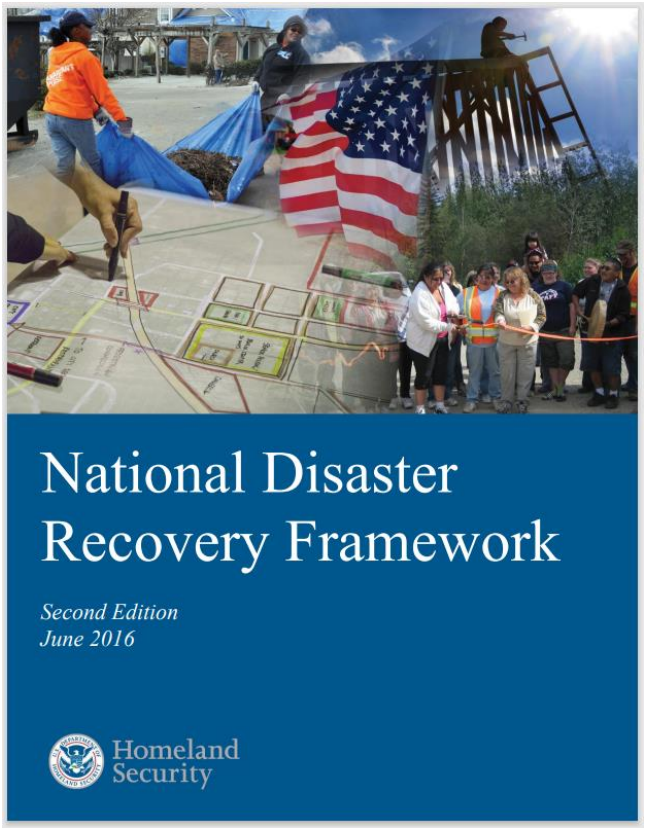
National Response Framework



Vs.

Recovery Framework



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ESF #2 - Communications

- Department of Homeland Security – Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is the lead agency
- FEMA & CISA are co-primary agencies
- Numerous federal agencies and departments participate or may be used.
  - FCC
  - NTIA
  - DOD
  - Etc.

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FEMA Flexible

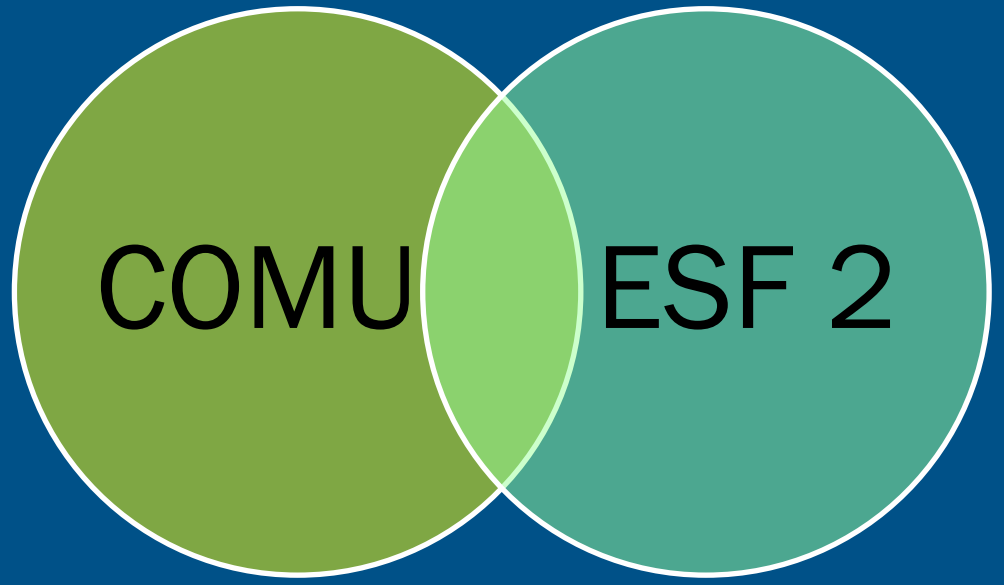
FEMA's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan suggests that disaster mitigation and response should be

"federally supported, state managed, and locally executed."

All disasters are local.

Overlapping but Distinct

- ICS – Communications Unit - Logistics
  - Support of the incident communications requirements
- NRF - ESF #2 – Operations
  - Primarily focused on the consequences of the event.
  - Reporting requirements
  - May be a supplier of resources to a Communications Unit



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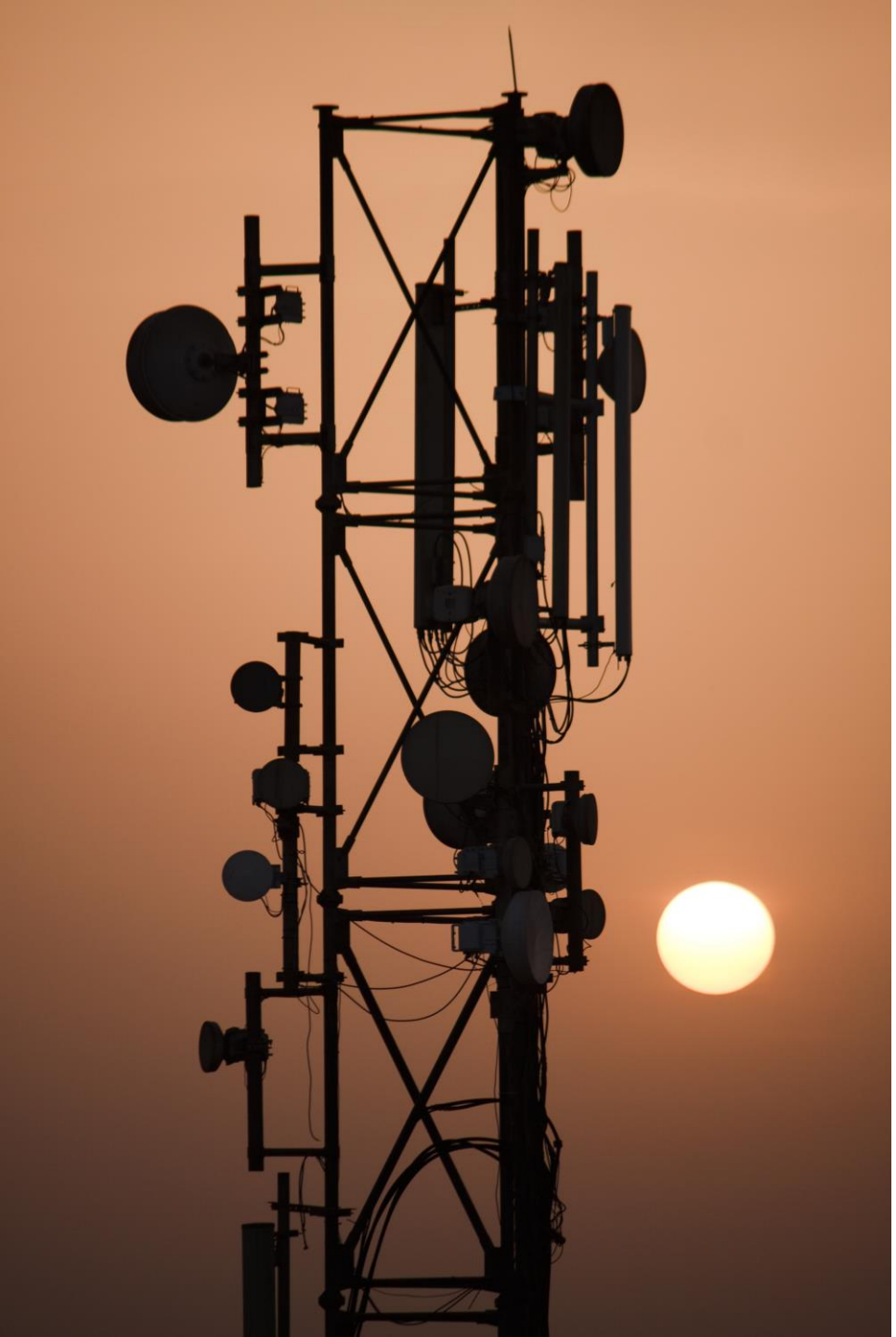
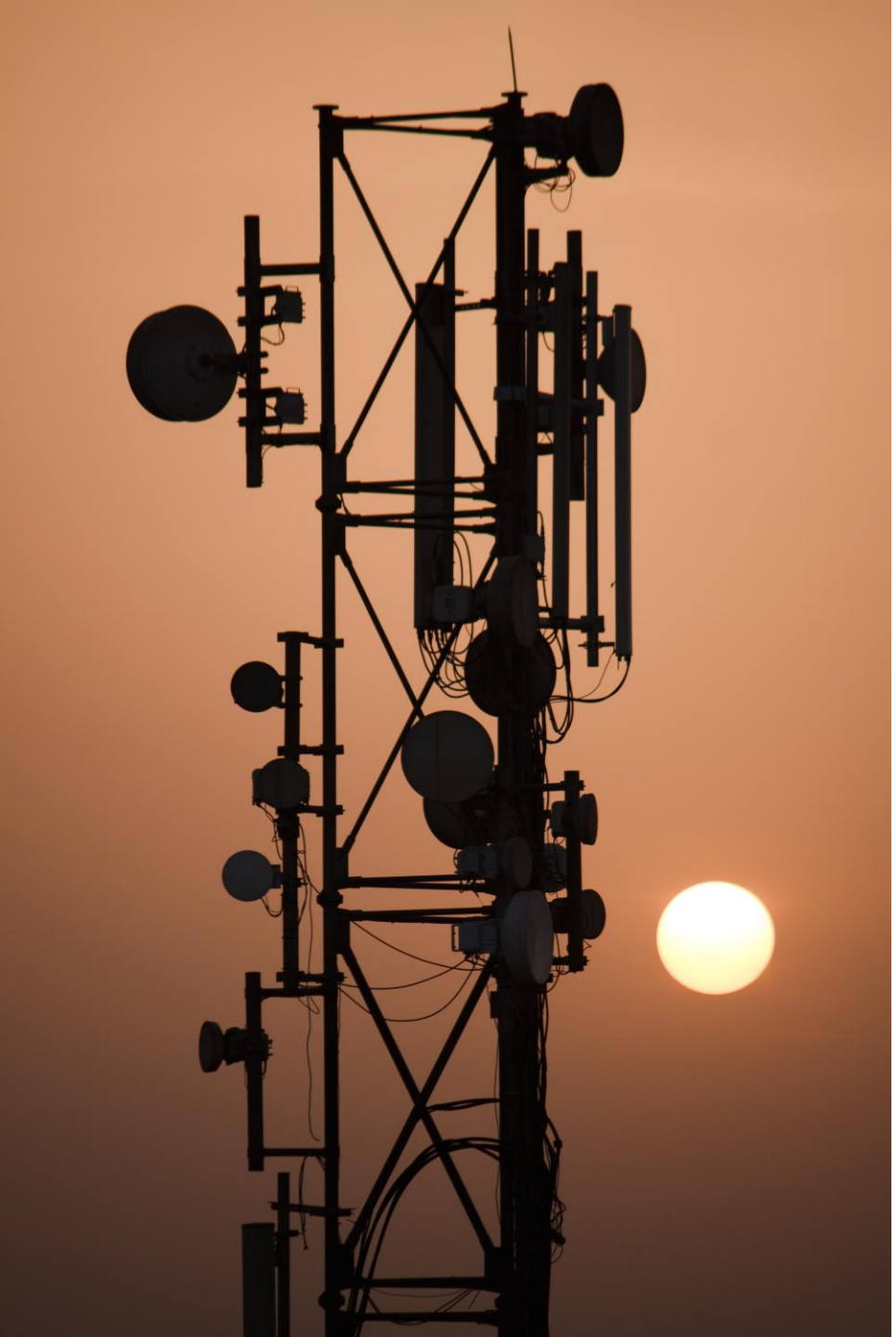


ESF # 2 Roles

The majority of the Communications infrastructure in the U.S. is privately owned.

- Communication
  - Sharing of the Situational Picture (aka COP)
- Coordination
- Technical Expertise - SMEs
- Reporting
  - Organized along the Communications Lifeline
    - 5 Components

Participants



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Communication Role

- Providing information to our partners
  - Dashboards – Region 10 uses adobe connect site https://fema.connectsolutions.com/rxreccwg
  - Regular Coordination Calls – State, Regional or National
    - In some cases a combination of above

- Gathering information on shortfalls, needs, and information for our reporting
  - On the coordination calls
  - From FCC reporting – Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS)

- Facilitating Industry interaction / coordination

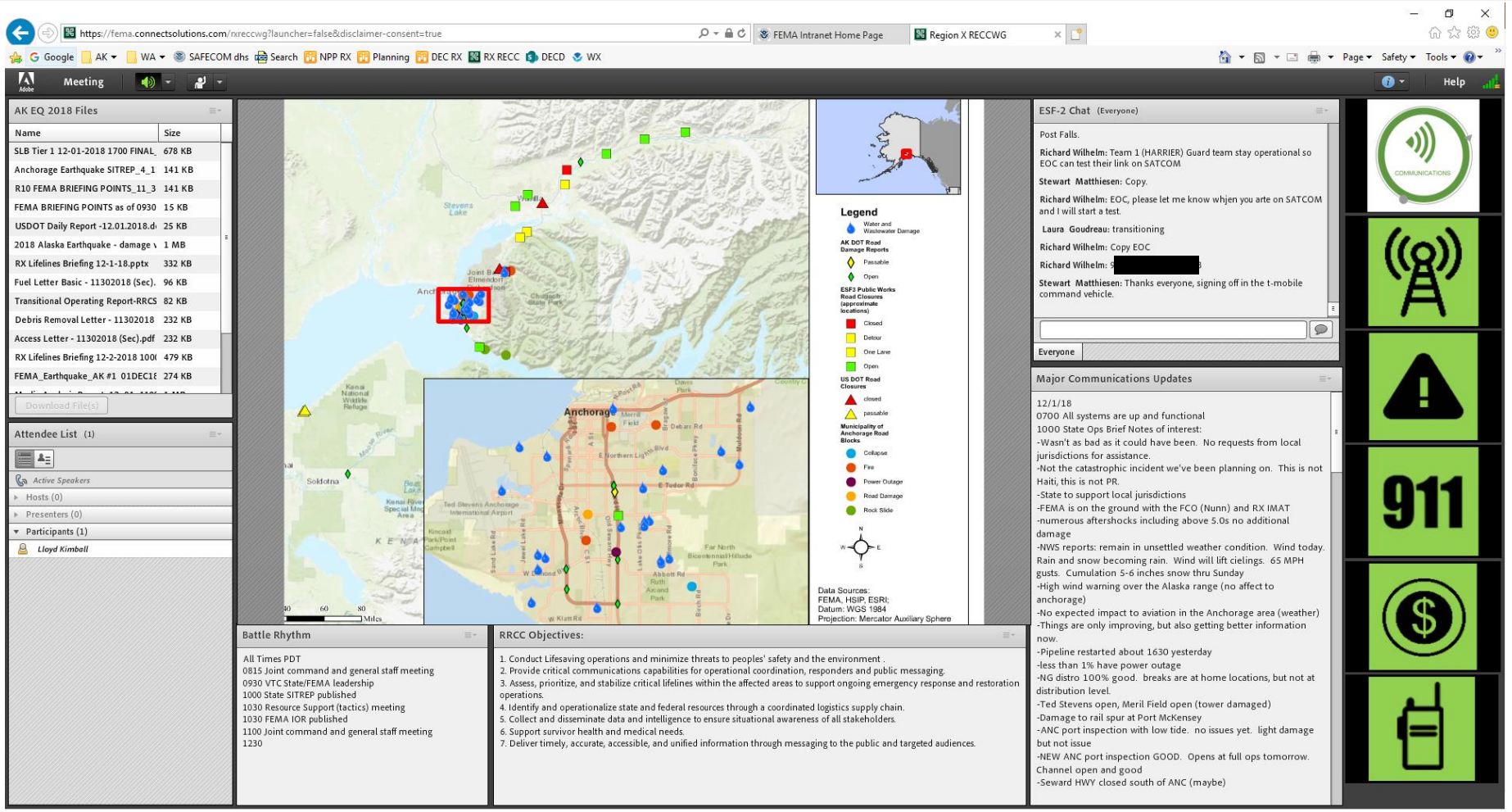
Federal Communications Commission - DIRS

The FCC established the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) on September 11, 2007, in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

DIRS is a voluntary, web-based system through which the Commission collects operational status and restoration information from communications providers during major disasters and subsequent recovery efforts. DIRS provides communications providers with a single, coordinated, consistent process to report their communications infrastructure status information during disasters. DIRS collects infrastructure status information from wireline, wireless, broadcast, cable, interconnected VoIP, and broadband service providers.

Reported on a county-by-county level, once activated by the FCC.

Situation Picture – R10 RECCWG Adobe Page – 2018 AK Earthquake



Coordination

- FEMA Coordinates the response of Federal assets
  - Resource request form
  - Mission Assignments
- Regional ESF 2 / DEC / RECC assists the State or Tribes ESF 2 organization
- Coordination with other Federal ESF's
- Private Industry Partners

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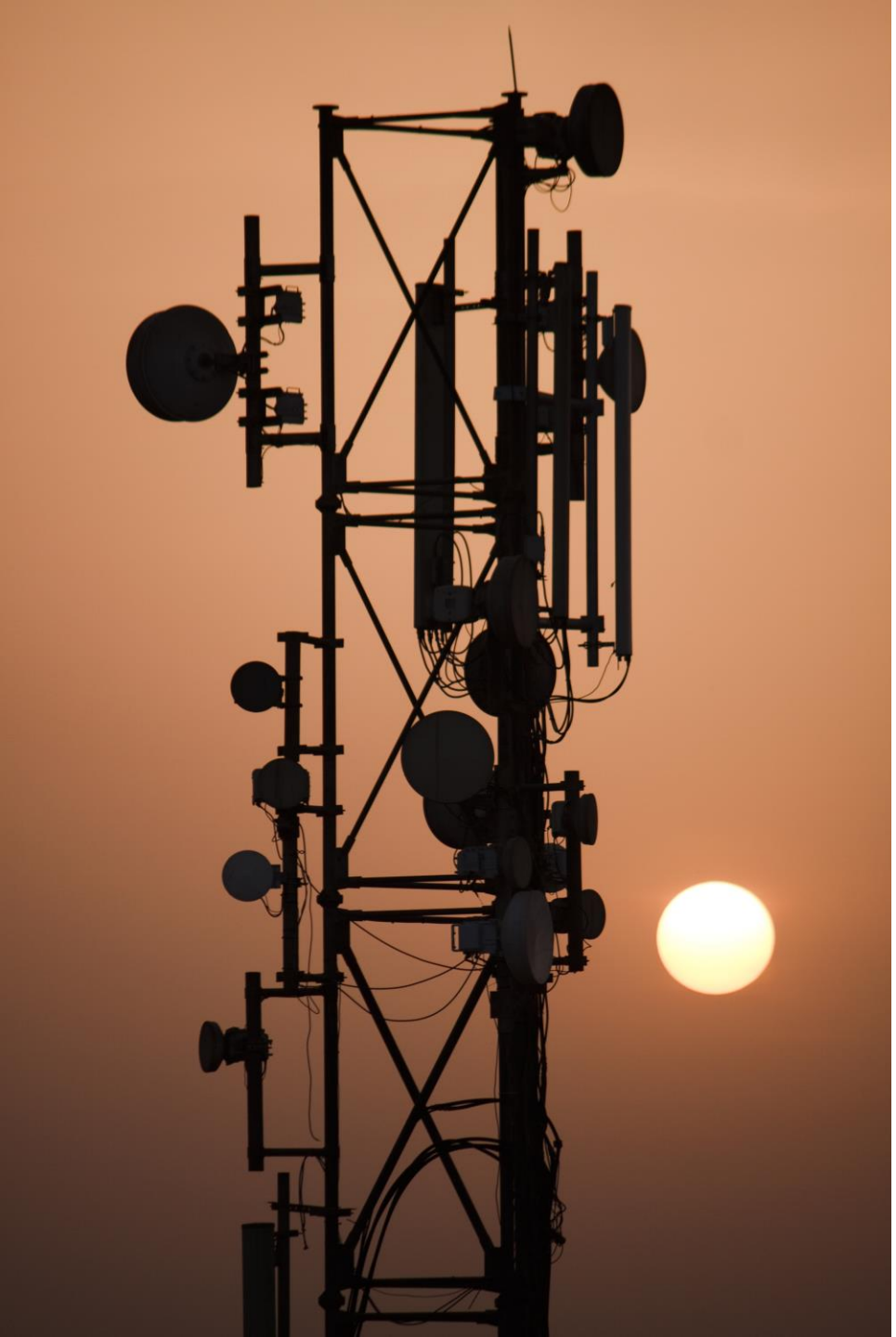
Paperwork

- States, Tribes and Local governments can often leverage volunteer and donated services as part of their cost share
  - Requires documentation
  - Best if documented at the time it occurs
- Another reason for your local agency to use your groups services

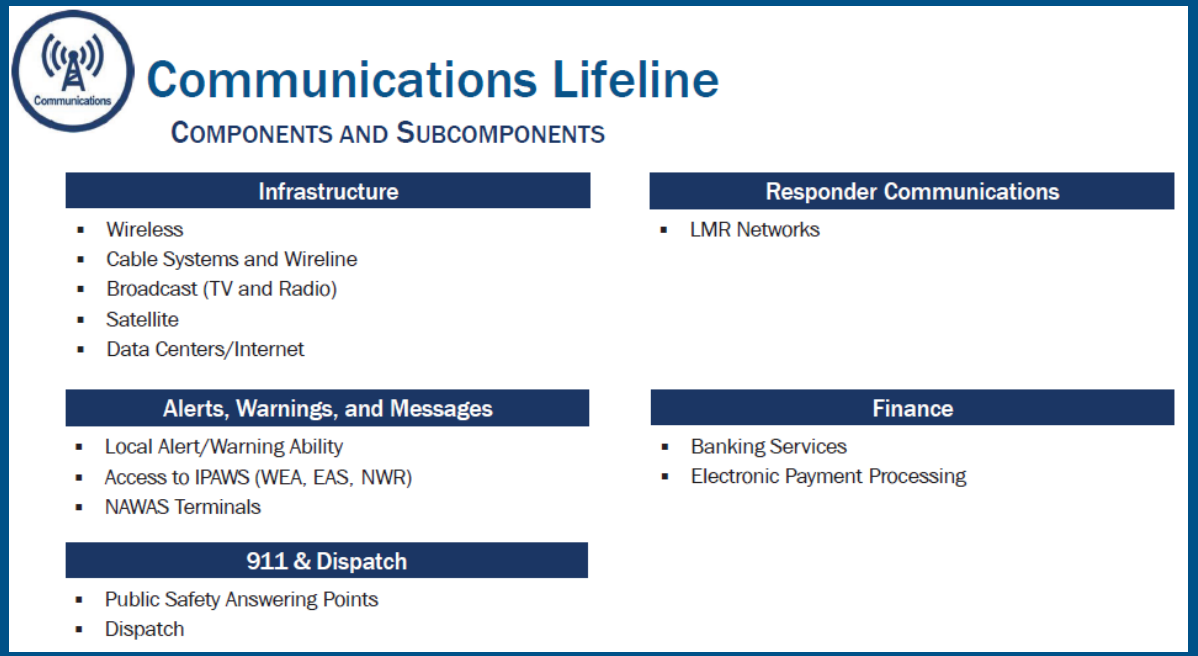


The Value of Communicating and Coordination

- Industry & Government partners have similar needs
  - i.e.: Cellular Companies H, J, & K and the State may all occupy distinct facilities at a mountain top. If they can coordinate fueling; that will lessen the demand on suppliers, be more efficient, and might move them higher on the priority list.
- Everyone has the same basic information needs
- Efficiency – The quicker we are in restoring or providing service, it will improve the other response efforts (ESF's), and the effected populations needs will be met sooner.

Reporting

- Reporting is needed for senior leader's decision making
- Organized along the 5 components of the Communications Lifeline
  - Communications Infrastructure
  - Public Alert & Warning Systems
  - 911 & Dispatch Centers
  - Responder Communications Systems
  - Banking and Financial Services



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Community Lifelines

A lifeline enables the continuous operation of **critical government** and **business functions** and is essential to **human health** and **safety** or **economic security**.

Lifeline Colors

- Grey is used to denote that there is no information on item

- Red indicates that the lifeline is disrupted, and no requirements or solutions have been identified

- Yellow indicates that a solution has been identified and a plan of action is in progress

- Green indicates that the lifeline is stable, and restoration plan is in place, not necessarily that it has been restored

Comms Lifeline Component - Infrastructure

COMPONENT STATUS			
COMPONENT	**LAST OPERATIONAL PERIOD**	**CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERIOD**	**CONDITION**
Infrastructure			➢ Disrupted with no solution identified. ➢ Disrupted but a known time to resolution is identified. ➢ Stabilized either by contingency response solutions and/or reestablishment of organic lifeline services organic to the community. ➢ Not Disrupted / No Impacts.

SUBCOMPONENT	STATUS	IMPACTS	ACTIONS	LIMITING FACTORS	ETA TO GREEN
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- Wireline Carriers
- Commercial Wireless
- Commercial Broadcast
- Data Centers
- Commercial Satellite
- Undersea Cables
- Commercial Television

Comms Lifeline Component – Alert/Warning

COMPONENT	LAST OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CONDITION
Alerts, Warnings, and Messages			➢ DISRUPTED WITH NO SOLUTION IDENTIFIED. ➢ DISRUPTED BUT A KNOWN TIME TO RESOLUTION IS IDENTIFIED. ➢ STABILIZED EITHER BY CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS AND/OR REESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIC LIFELINE SERVICES ORGANIC TO THE COMMUNITY. ➢ NOT DISRUPTED / NO IMPACTS.

SUBCOMPONENT	STATUS	IMPACTS	ACTIONS	LIMITING FACTORS	ETA TO GREEN
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- Local Alert & Warning Systems
- IPAWS
- NOAA WX Radio TXs
- NAWAS
- TV/Radio ability to Transmit alerts

Comms Lifeline Component – 9-1-1 & Dispatch

COMPONENT	LAST OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CONDITION
911 and Dispatch	Communications	Communications	➢ DISRUPTED WITH NO SOLUTION IDENTIFIED. ➢ DISRUPTED BUT A KNOWN TIME TO RESOLUTION IS IDENTIFIED. ➢ STABILIZED EITHER BY CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS AND/OR REESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIC LIFELINE SERVICES ORGANIC TO THE COMMUNITY. ➢ NOT DISRUPTED / NO IMPACTS.

SUBCOMPONENT	STATUS	IMPACTS	ACTIONS	LIMITING FACTORS	ETA TO GREEN
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 9-1-1 Network Status
- PSAP Status
- Dispatch Center Status

Comms Component – Responder Comms

COMPONENT	LAST OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CONDITION
Responder Communications			➢ DISRUPTED WITH NO SOLUTION IDENTIFIED. ➢ DISRUPTED BUT A KNOWN TIME TO RESOLUTION IS IDENTIFIED. ➢ STABILIZED EITHER BY CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS AND/OR REESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIC LIFELINE SERVICES ORGANIC TO THE COMMUNITY. ➢ NOT DISRUPTED / NO IMPACTS.

SUBCOMPONENT	STATUS	IMPACTS	ACTIONS	LIMITING FACTORS	ETA TO GREEN
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- State, Local, and Tribal Communications Systems
- Federal Responders Communications Systems

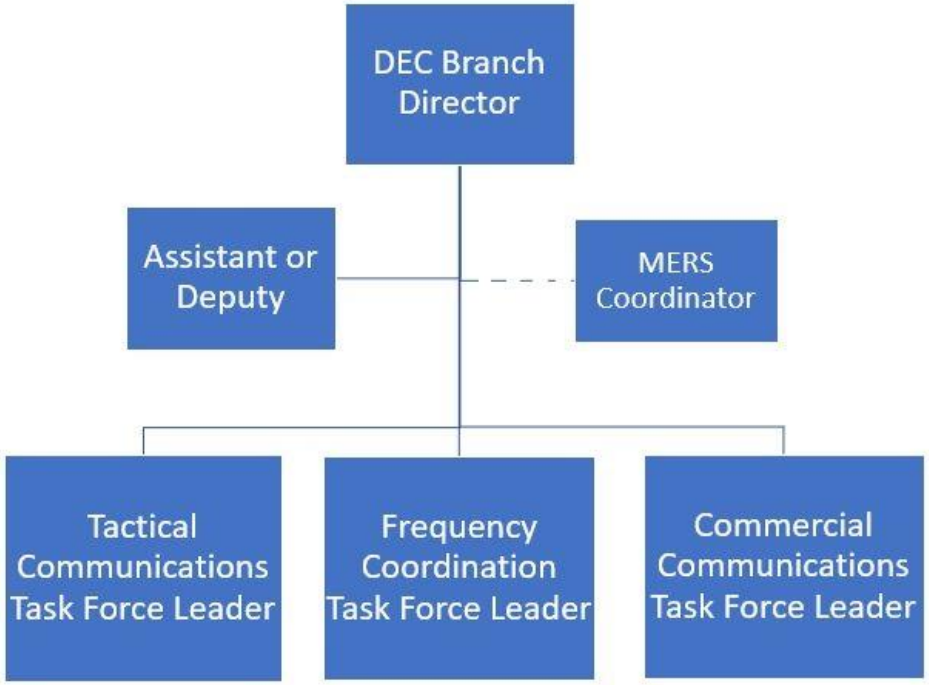
Comms Component – Finance

COMPONENT	LAST OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERIOD	CONDITION
Financial Services	Communications	Communications	➢ DISRUPTED WITH NO SOLUTION IDENTIFIED. ➢ DISRUPTED BUT A KNOWN TIME TO RESOLUTION IS IDENTIFIED. ➢ STABILIZED EITHER BY CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS AND/OR REESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIC LIFELINE SERVICES ORGANIC TO THE COMMUNITY. ➢ NOT DISRUPTED / NO IMPACTS.

SUBCOMPONENT	STATUS	IMPACTS	ACTIONS	LIMITING FACTORS	ETA TO GREEN
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- Access to Cash
- Banking Systems
- Electronic Payment Processing

FEMA Regional ESF 2 Organization



- Structure for at the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) R10 Bothell
- Similar structure in the field
- Same as ICS - if you don't fill the function, then you must accomplish the responsibilities
- Adjusts as needed. Often will fit into the State ESF 2 or other structure.
  - Though the FEMA staff will still have to accomplish the FEMA reporting
- .

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FEMA - MERS

- Mobile Emergency Response Support
  - National Headquarters' resource – 6 detachments
  - Primary focus is on supporting federal responders
    - FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams
    - FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Teams
    - Disaster Medical Assistance Teams
    - Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams
    - Support and Construction of Joint Field Offices, Disaster Recovery Centers, etc.
  - Large, Heavy, can be expensive to deploy

Tactical Communications TFL

The Tactical Communications Task Force focuses on assisting state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) public safety agencies in the restoration of life safety communications systems and on establishing and maintaining communications within and between deployed federal resources.

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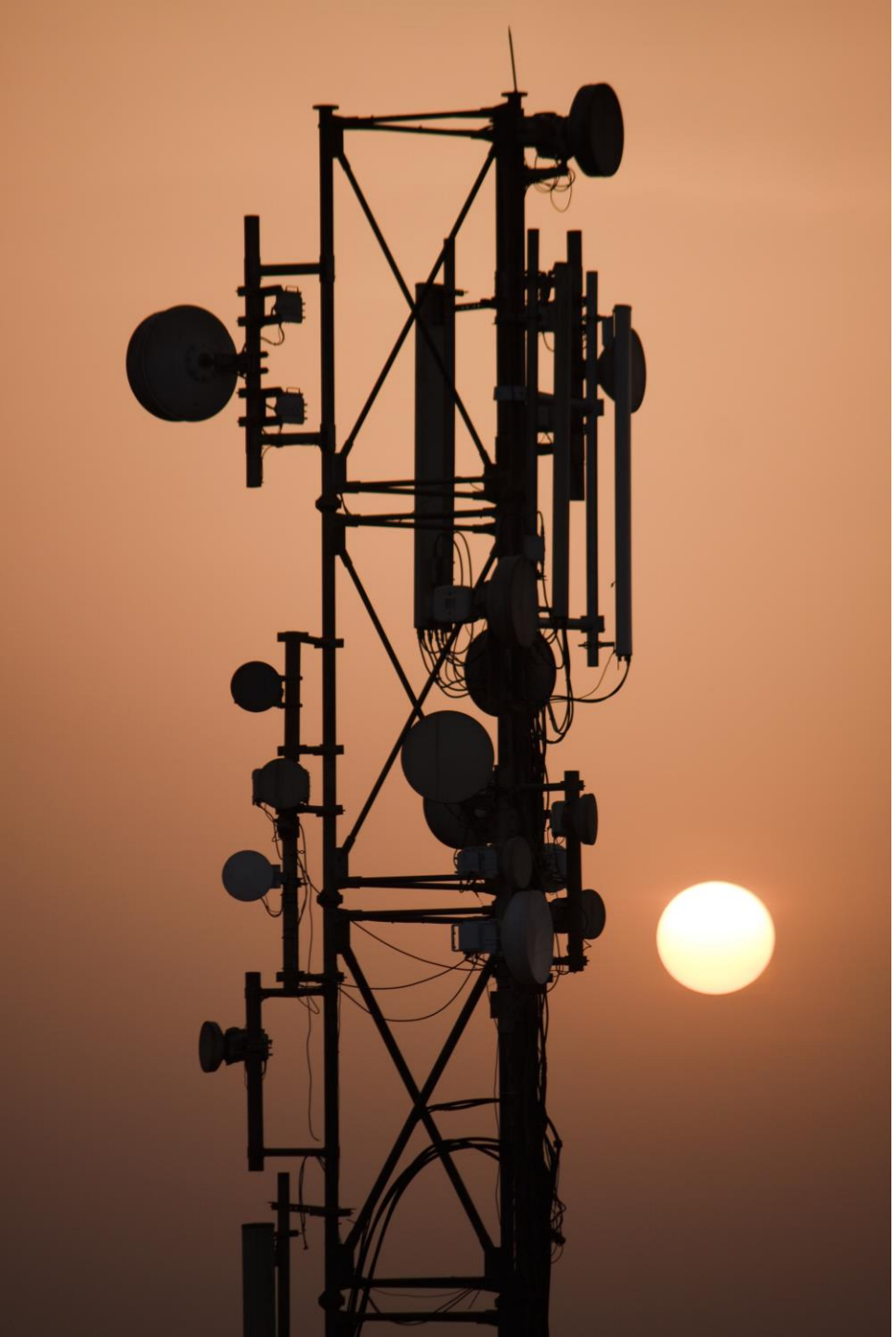

Frequency Coordination TFL

- The Frequency Coordination TF provides overall frequency coordination for federal responders, addresses frequency deconfliction and assists with Special Temporary Authorities from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and/or the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- Often filled by FCC or NTIA personnel

Commercial Communications TFL

- The Commercial Communications Task Force focuses on assisting commercial communications providers in the restoration of services, serving as a conduit for information sharing, and coordinating the prioritization of government and private sector communications services support.
- Often filled by CISA's Emergency Communications Division (ECD)

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Industry Partnerships - Spreading the word

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Spreading the word in local languages

Summary

- States or Tribes are in the lead
- FEMA and the Federal Government are there to support
- ESF 2 Organizations can exist at each level of government. Local, State, Tribal, Federal Regions, National
- Coordination and Communication is key
- ICS- Communications Unit(COMU) is a Logistics function (Internal supporting the organizationFEMA and the Federal Government are there to support
- ESF 2 is an operations function (looking outward)
- Private industry owns most of the communications infrastructure – They are a critical partner

Region 10 RECCWG

Serves as a regional level coordination point for Federal, State, Tribal, Local and Industry emergency communications partners. Aux Comm participation is encouraged.

Email FEMA-R10-RECC@fema.dhs.gov or subscribe to the Tid Bits newsletter at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSFEMA_1510

Questions?

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