



National Emergency Communications Plan Goal 1

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) establishes a vision for emergency communications in the United States. Goal 1 of the NECP establishes target levels of interoperable emergency communications for Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal jurisdictions.

By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 1 of the NECP addresses the 60 high-risk urban areas designated within the FY 2008 Urban Area Security Initiative Program.¹ To implement and measure Goal 1, the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is assessing UASI regions' abilities to demonstrate response-level emergency communications during planned events.² Additionally, as part of each State's Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan Implementation Report in 2010, States will report on UASI regions' current capabilities for interoperable emergency communications, as appropriate.³ This capability data will assist OEC in its analysis of Goal 1 performance and help identify national trends in urban area emergency communications.

Demonstration Guidelines

NECP Goal 1 demonstrations are being conducted between January and October 31, 2010. OEC is observing communications at large-scale planned events identified by the UASI for evaluation. In accordance with Department of Homeland Security grant requirements and NECP guidelines, the selected events must be managed using the National Incident Management System. The events must also involve multiple jurisdictions and responder disciplines. UASIs are evaluated against specific criteria related to common policies and procedures, responder roles and responsibilities, and communications quality and continuity.

The Goal observations are conducted by OEC observation teams consisting of Federal staff, peer observers, and support personnel. The peer observers are matched from comparably-sized UASI regions to ensure familiarity with the size of operations. They received special training to prepare them for the observation. Trained Communications Unit Leaders are used as observers whenever possible.

After Action Reports

Following observation of the planned events, OEC develops reports for UASI and State officials that identify strengths, weaknesses, and present improvement plans. OEC will conclude the NECP Goal 1 measurement process by analyzing the results of all 60 reports, identifying nationwide trends, and preparing an aggregate report of nationwide results.

¹ For information on the FY 2008 UASI Program, visit http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/uasi/fy08_uasi_guidance.pdf.

² Planned events are events for which the date and time are known and multiple responding agencies are involved.

³ Emergency communications capabilities are addressed in Exhibit 4 on page 8 of the NECP (accessible at http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/national_emergency_communications_plan.pdf).