

## Radio Communications Capability Worksheet

**Instructions:**

1. Complete the Radio Communications Capability Worksheet.
2. Review the worksheet to determine – Are your communications interoperable?

<b>Jurisdiction Description</b>	
1. Which of the following best describes the topography in your jurisdiction? (Mark all that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal <input type="checkbox"/> Relatively flat <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling hills <input type="checkbox"/> Mountainous <input type="checkbox"/> Heavily forested
2. Does your jurisdiction include many high-rise buildings or other structures that could interfere with radio signals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Operations Information</b>	
1. Does your jurisdiction have at least one radio channel that has been designated for communicating with other agencies during an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (How many? _____) <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. How does your jurisdiction handle emergency dispatch?	<input type="checkbox"/> Each agency has its own dispatch center. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch is combined for all agencies. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch is managed at a higher level of government. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch is contracted. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
3. What is your jurisdiction's policy concerning radio language between/among agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Plain English <input type="checkbox"/> Codes <input type="checkbox"/> Other
4. To what degree does the use of differing radio protocols hinder effective communication between/among agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major problem <input type="checkbox"/> Minor problem <input type="checkbox"/> No problem
5. Which radio frequencies does your jurisdiction use to communicate with other agencies during an emergency? (Mark all that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Highband VHF (150-174 MHz) <input type="checkbox"/> Lowband VHF (25-50 MHz) <input type="checkbox"/> Lowband UHF (450-470 MHz) <input type="checkbox"/> Federal band UHF (406-420 MHz) <input type="checkbox"/> Lowband UHF (470-512 MHz) <input type="checkbox"/> 800 MHz (806-869 MHz)

**Radio Communications Capability Worksheet (Continued)**

<b>Operations Information (Continued)</b>	
6. Does your jurisdiction have intergovernmental agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for mutually defined calls for service during emergencies and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. To what extent has your jurisdiction's need for interoperability with other agencies changed over the past 5 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased <input type="checkbox"/> No change <input type="checkbox"/> Decreased
8. Rate your jurisdiction's ability to establish a radio communications link with other agencies in the jurisdiction during an emergency or disaster.	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good
9. Rate your jurisdiction's ability to establish a radio communications link with mutual aid agencies from other jurisdictions during an emergency or disaster.	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good
10. Rate your jurisdiction's ability to establish a radio communications link with other levels of government during an emergency or disaster.	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good
11. Based on your experience, indicate the severity of each of the following obstacles to interoperability:	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Different bands	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Human and institutional limitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Different communications modes	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Limitations of commercial services	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Limitations on funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Different coverage areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
▪ Turf issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High

### Radio Communications Capability Worksheet (Continued)

<b>Communications Systems</b>	
1. What types of communications equipment are used by agencies within your jurisdiction?	<input type="checkbox"/> Handheld land portable radios <input type="checkbox"/> Pagers <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur radio <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone landline <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Cellular fax <input type="checkbox"/> Laptop computer <input type="checkbox"/> Personal digital assistants <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed-wing aircraft radio <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle-mounted mobile radio <input type="checkbox"/> Citizens band radios <input type="checkbox"/> Cellular phone <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile data terminal <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter radio
2. Do agencies within the jurisdiction share the infrastructure for their land-based radio system with other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. How many of the following are in your land-based radio system?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base stations</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Repeaters</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Control stations</li> </ul>	
4. What is the age range of the radio system(s) within your jurisdiction?	_____ Newest _____ Oldest
5. Does your jurisdiction use digital or analog radio systems?	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital <input type="checkbox"/> Analog
6. Which best describes the primary land mobile radio system used by agencies during an emergency response?	<input type="checkbox"/> Conventional <input type="checkbox"/> Trunked
7. Which radio frequencies are used for <u>voice only</u> communications? For each frequency, record the number of channels allocated to voice only communications.	Number of channels:
<input type="checkbox"/> Lowband VHF (25-50 MHz)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Highband VHF (150-174 MHz)	
<input type="checkbox"/> UHF (406-512 MHz)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 800 MHz (806-869 MHz)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify)	

### Radio Communications Capability Worksheet (Continued)

<b>Communications Systems (Continued)</b>	
8. Does the jurisdiction have the ability to patch across channels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9. If your jurisdiction has the ability to patch across channels, how many simultaneous patches can be established?	Number of simultaneous patches:
10. Is a dispatcher required to set up and break down patches?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
11. How effective is the jurisdiction's ability to achieve interoperability through cross patches?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ineffective <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately effective <input type="checkbox"/> Highly effective
12. How serious are the following problems regarding your jurisdiction's land-based radio system?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of channels</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of talk groups (for trunked systems)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dead spots</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fading</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Frequency interference</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Static</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Battery failure</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of equipment</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdated equipment</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equipment size/weight</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem

## Radio Communications Capability Worksheet (Continued)

<b>Communications Systems (Continued)</b>	
▪ Incompatible equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem
▪ Operational difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Severe problem

  

<b>Overall Capability Rating</b>	
Review your responses to the questions in this worksheet. Based on the responses, how would you rate your jurisdiction's radio communications capability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good