



COMU/STR Resources

March 2, 2021

Overview:

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety division of Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN) has prepared this document to help answer some of the frequently asked questions regarding the Communications Unit (COMU) and Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) resources available to provide interoperable emergency communication capabilities across multiple jurisdictions and disciplines during special events, disasters, and major incidents.

Communications Unit (COMU Resources):

Under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) structure, the Communications Unit (COMU) falls under the Service Branch within the Logistics Section. The COMU responsibilities include developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment, providing personnel to support dedicated incident dispatch and land mobile radio communication capabilities, managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment at key locations/facilities.

COMU resources are regionally maintained by each of the state's seven Emergency Communications Board (ECB) and Emergency Services Board (ESB) regions. These resources include:

- Communications Unit Leaders (COM-Ls) to assist with the development and implementation of an ICS-205 (Incident Radio Communications Plan) and manage incident related emergency communication operations.
- Communications Unit Technicians (COM-Ts) to assist with emergency communication equipment setup, distribution, maintenance, and sustainment.
- Incident Tactical Dispatchers (INTDs) to provide incident related dispatch support within the Incident Communications Center (ICC).
- Incident Communication Center Managers (INCMs) to assist with establishing, supervising, and managing operations within the Incident Communications Center (ICC).
- Auxiliary Emergency Communication Specialists (AECs) to provide technological and operational land mobile radio communication support.
- Radio Operators (RADOs) to monitor and record incident related communications.

Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) Resources:

The Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) provides a cache of emergency communications equipment to support incident operations. STR resources are maintained by each of the state's seven ECB/ESB regions (regional STR resources) and DPS-ECN (state STR resources).

- The regionally maintained STR cache is geographically dispersed at key locations across the state and includes:
 - ~180 ARMER system Motorola XTS series portable radios (non-encrypted) with chargers, spare batteries, and remote speaker microphones.
 - 7 radio repeater tower trailers.
- Other regionally/locally maintained STR resources include additional ARMER system portable radios, an ARMER system tower site trailer, and a number of mobile emergency communication vehicles.
- The state maintained STR cache is based at the DPS-ECN office in downtown Saint Paul and includes:
 - ~150 ARMER Motorola XTS series system portable radios (non-encrypted) with chargers, spare batteries, and remote speaker microphones.
 - A small quantity of UHF and VHF portable radios.

COMU/STR Resource Resources

The ECB/ESB representatives listed below are available to assist with requests for the deployment of regionally/locally maintained COMU/STR resources:

Northwest Emergency Communications Board Region:

- Dave Olson 218-681-6161 dolson@penningtonsheriff.org
- Nicholas Robertson 218-681-0943 nicholas.robertson@state.mn.us
- Chris Muller 218-766-7062 chris.muller@co.beltrami.mn.us

Northeast Emergency Communications Board Region:

- St. Louis County PSAP 218-625-3581
- Dewey Johnson 218-726-2936 JohnsonD@StLouisCountyMN.gov
- Steve Olson 218-830-8835 steve.olson@co.lake.mn.us

Central Emergency Services Board Region:

- Kristen Lahr 320-259-3727 kristen.lahr@co.stearns.mn.us
- Brandon Larson 320-650-3304 brandon.larson@ci.stcloud.mn.us

Metropolitan Emergency Services Board Region:

- Tracey Fredrick 651-643-8398 tfredrick@mn-mesb.org
- Don Smiley 651-775-8714 don.smiley@co.ramsey.mn.us
- Mark VandenBerghe 612-716-7843 mvasandenbergh@edenprairie.org
- Dan Anderson (COMU) 612-578-1372 dan.anderson@hennepin.us
- Nate Timm (COMU) 651-430-7863 nate.timm@co.washington.mn.us
- Curt Meyer (STR) 612-596-1922 curtis.meyer@hennepin.us

Southwest Emergency Communications Board Region:

- Lyon County PSAP 507-537-7666
- Eric Wallin 507-537-7666 ericwallen@co.lyon.mn.us
- Todd Roelfsema 507-929-6603 toddroelfsema@co.lyon.mn.us
- Bill Flaten 320-564-5896 bill.flaten@co.ym.mn.gov

South Central Emergency Communications Board Region:

- Keith Ruffing 507-931-1550 keithr@saintpetermn.gov
- Tim Peterson 507-387-8744 tim.peterson@blueearthcountymn.gov
- Adam Gray 507-387-8725 agrays@mankatomn.gov

Southeast Emergency Communications Board Region:

- Dave Pike 507-437-9400 dpike@co.mower.mn.us
- Mike Burton 507-328-6800 burton.mike@co.olmsted.mn.us
- Ben Klinger 507-457-6368 bklinger@co.winona.mn.us

The DPS-ECN team members listed below are available to assist with requests for the deployment of state maintained STR resources:

- **Cathy Clark**, Deputy Director/Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
Mobile: 612-757-1027 E-Mail: cathy.clark@state.mn.us
- **Marcus Bruning**, Regional Interoperability Coordinator (Metro Area, Northern & East Central Minnesota)
Mobile: 218-232-3762 E-Mail: marcus.bruning@state.mn.us
- **Steve Tait**, Regional Interoperability Coordinator (West Central & Southern Minnesota)
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Emergency Communications Board (ECB) and Emergency Services Board (ESB) Regions

