



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MISSOURI INTEROPERABILITY CENTER

Policy Title: Common Language Usage

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Required Outcome(s):

All MOSWIN system users will utilize common language instead of 10-codes or other cryptic language to facilitate interoperable communications in emergencies.

Standard:

To be in compliance with National Incident Management System (NIMS), common language will be the required mode of communication for all MOSWIN radio transmissions in inter-agency communications and all interoperable scenarios including communications utilized in training and exercise events.

Because the safety of responders and the public is of paramount importance, clear communication between all responders is critical. Therefore, establishing a standard method of communication to be used in emergency situations is of the utmost importance. 10-codes utilized internally with departments have different meanings in different jurisdictions which can lead to miscommunication. During emergency situations all responders, whether they be local or multi-jurisdictional, must be able to communicate clearly. In addition, they must know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures.

The use of common terminology promotes interoperable communications. The ability of area commanders, State and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and emergency responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident is critical. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

While the National Incident Management System does not require plain language for internal operations, it strongly encourages it, as it is important to practice every day terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters.

It is required that plain language be used in communications during the response to multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters, training and exercises.