

RACES Notes for 07/08/2009

News and Announcements

### 1) Upcoming Events:

7/17-18 Williams Hamfest

9/5-7 Paradise Trip

10/17 Cochise County Cycling Classic Perimeter Race

**2) Bisbee Coaster Race** – I want to thank everyone again for their assistance at the coaster race. Mayor Jack Porter and his wife Pat were very appreciative that we were there to assist in getting the medical assistance on the scene quickly when the accident took place. They were listening attentively at my station as the information was being relayed concerning the situation at the bottom of the hill.

**TRAINING** – This evening I want to briefly discuss a document that currently being developed here in the county as part of a national effort to standardize communications interoperability. It is called the Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan. The purpose of this document is to establish the procedures and protocols to be used during major events or incidents which cross over political jurisdictions. During these events, there will potentially be competing demands and priorities for interoperable communications assets. Until such time as Incident Command is established, the lead agency designee (i.e., communications supervisor/command personnel), in cooperation with assisting agencies, will have the authority to designate the use of interoperable assets. Once Incident Command has been established, Command Staff or Communication Unit Leaders (when designated) direct the further coordination and delegation of the interoperable communications assets assigned to the event or incident in question. Agencies will need to judiciously activate needed interoperable assets so as to both effectively respond to the event and/or incident and also minimize any negative impact on surrounding agencies or jurisdictions.

Interoperable communications should be attempted with the following order of operations in mind (subject to variability based on the agencies involved and the nature of the event/incident):

1. Leverage face-to-face communications wherever appropriate. For example, the co-location of all Command and General Staff at the incident command post (ICP) provides the best direct communications and reduces the demand on interoperability resources.
2. Employ local communications assets until such time as either those assets become taxed or inadequate based on the nature and/or scope of the incident.
3. If response agencies are users of a shared system, utilize that shared system to establish interoperable communications.
4. If response agencies operate on disparate systems, they should utilize shared or mutual aid channels to establish interoperable communications.
5. If response agencies do not share systems or channels, utilize a gateway solution to establish interoperable communications. For example, the MCU is considered a gateway solution with the ACU 1000.
6. Where interoperable communications cannot otherwise be established between response agencies, utilize swap or cache radios to establish operable communications

for responders. For example, the MCU carries a cache of 10 hand-held radios that can be checked out to achieve this step.

7. If no other method of interoperability can be established, relay communications through staff members.

When the same resources are requested for two or more incidents, resource assignments should be based on the priority levels listed below:

1. Disasters, large scale incidents, or extreme emergencies requiring mutual aid or interagency communications.
2. Incidents where imminent danger exists to life or property.
3. Incidents requiring the response of multiple agencies.
4. Pre-planned events requiring mutual aid or interagency communications.
5. Incidents involving a single agency where supplemental communications are needed for agency use.
6. Drills, tests and exercises.

In the event of multiple simultaneous incidents within the same priority level, the resources should be allocated with the following priorities in mind:

1. Incidents with the greatest level of exigency (e.g., greater threat to life or property, more immediate need, etc.) have priority over less exigent incidents.
2. Agencies with single/limited interoperable options have priority use of those options over agencies with multiple interoperable options.
3. When at all possible, agencies already using an interoperable asset during an event should not be redirected to another resource.

Hopefully you can see from this information how the TICP can be used to establish the necessary procedures to facilitate interoperable communications. There is a similar document at the state level called the AZ Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan. I mentioned that a few weeks ago. Hopefully the training this evening has provided some additional insight as to what some of the actions are being taken in the state to create common procedures. Each county is in the process of building their TICP using the same basic template. I am also attaching a copy of the AZ SCIP Executive Summary to tonight's notes.

That's it for training this evening; we will now go down the roster for comments and or questions.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

***"The value of an idea lies in the using of it."***

***Thomas Alva Edison***