

**Communication Vehicles
State of Ohio
Standards, Protocols, Procedures**

I. Purpose/Objectives

Establish SOPs for the access to and utilization of Communication Vehicles available in the State of Ohio.

II. Technical Background

A communication vehicle allows the Ohio Public Safety Agencies and other agencies (Federal, State, regional, etc.) to communicate during planned events, local emergencies and declared disasters.

III. Operational Context

Established mutual aid response protocols between the Ohio Public Safety Agencies and the other responding on-scene agencies (Federal, State, regional, etc.) will provide the basis for requesting the use of a Communications Vehicle.

IV. Recommended Protocol/Standard

Plain language – All interoperable communications during multi-agency, multi-discipline incidents should be in plain language. Avoid using radio codes, acronyms, and abbreviations as they may cause confusion between agencies. Ensure all verbal requests for assistance or backup specify the reason for the request.

V. Recommended Protocol Procedure

Communication vehicle request – Local Mutual Aid agreements should be established with agencies possessing communication vehicles. communication vehicles may be used during planned events, local emergencies and declared disasters.

In the event of a Critical Incident, the Incident Commander/Designee shall determine, based on operational need, the communication resources required to handle the incident. Once the needs have been determined, the IC/Designee shall contact the closest, most suitable agency with a communications vehicle resource. The owner of the communication vehicle will be responsible to ensure the vehicle is listed as inventory in the Communication Assets Mapping System (CASM) which can be found at http://ema.ohio.gov/TechnicalSupport_CASM.aspx

Communication vehicle demobilization – The recommended NIMS protocol shall be followed for the demobilization of the communication vehicle.

Communication vehicle problem identification and resolution – Any problems encountered with the use of the communication vehicle shall be reported to the agency responsible for maintaining the vehicle. The agencies involved shall make every effort to work together to resolve the identified issues.

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VI. Management

The responding agencies are responsible for the operational management of their communication vehicle.