



NATIONWIDE COMMUNICATIONS BASELINE ASSESSMENT FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is conducting a Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment (NCBA) to evaluate the Nation's ability to communicate during a range of response operations, including routine incidents, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

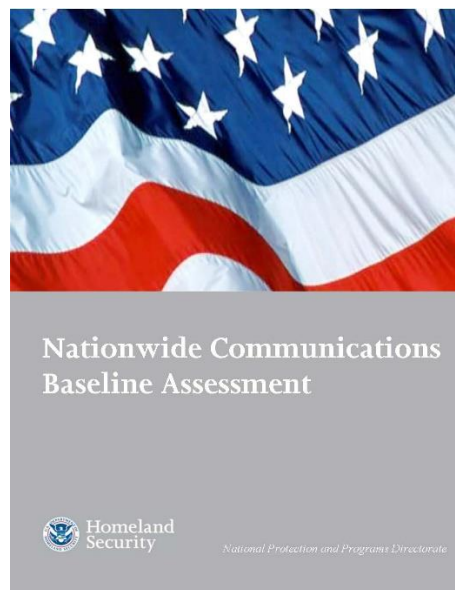
PURPOSE

The NCBA is designed to improve understanding across all levels of government on the capabilities needed and in use by today's emergency response providers in order to establish and sustain communications operability, interoperability, and continuity.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (6 U.S.C. § 573(a)), Congress directs OEC to conduct this assessment of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments that:

- Defines capabilities needed by emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue communications in the event of natural and man-made disasters, and acts of terrorism;
- Defines interoperable emergency communications capabilities needed for specific events;
- Assesses the capabilities that are currently available to meet communications needs; and
- Identifies gaps between current capabilities and defined requirements.



SAFECOM NATIONWIDE SURVEY

OEC will utilize the data collected from the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS) to complete the NCBA. The assessment will focus on:

- Analyzing the current state of emergency communications capabilities,
- Identifying nationwide gaps, and
- Measuring the evolution of emergency communications since the *2006 National Interoperability Baseline Survey*.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

OEC will leverage the 2017 SNS data along with other available data sources on emergency communications to complete the NCBA. Using the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum as a foundation, OEC will analyze the available data to provide comparisons to the results of the 2006 National Interoperability Baseline Survey, an in-depth analysis of the current state of emergency communications nationwide, and a synopsis of the emergency communications gaps and needs.

WHOLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Information gathered in the NCBA will assist government officials in making informed decisions on improvements to emergency communications capabilities, establishing priorities, and allocating resources more effectively. In addition, NCBA findings may influence Congressional appropriations for grant funding, as well as federal programs and service offerings to federal, state and territorial, local, tribal- government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

QUESTIONS?

Questions can be directed to OEC by e-mailing SNS@hq.dhs.gov. Additionally, NCBA documents are available on the OEC website.