

## OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNICATIONS

### OBJECTIVE

Demonstrate the capability to communicate with all appropriate emergency personnel at facilities and in the field.

### INTENT

This objective is derived from NUREG-0654 which provides that OROs should establish reliable primary and backup communication systems to ensure communications with key emergency personnel at locations such as the following: appropriate contiguous governments within the emergency planning zone (EPZ), Federal emergency response organizations, the nuclear power plant, the emergency operations facility (EOF), emergency operations centers (EOC), and field teams. OROs should ensure that a coordinated communication link for fixed and mobile medical support facilities exist. The specific communications capabilities of OROs should be commensurate with that specified in the response plans. (See evaluation criteria from Planning Standards F. and N.)

Effective and coordinated response efforts depend on the capability of emergency response personnel to communicate with one another. The purpose of this objective is to ensure that they can communicate with key emergency personnel, whether located at a fixed facility, staging area, or in the field.

Demonstration of this objective covers the availability and operability of communication systems and procedures for use between ORO facilities and the nuclear power plant and between ORO facilities and field units. (The actual substantive flow of information and instructions is necessary for the conduct of emergency operations covered in many other objectives.)

### DEMONSTRATION CRITERIA

#### NUREG

#### CRITERION

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|----------------|-----------|---|
| <b>F.1.,2.</b> | <b>1.</b> | <b>Communication systems are available, operate properly, and communication links are established with appropriate locations. Communications capabilities are managed in support of emergency operations.</b> |
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## **OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Explanation**

Responsible OROs should demonstrate the availability and operability of communication systems (e.g., commercial telephone lines and high and low band radios) that are commensurate with their overall emergency response role. These systems should be in working order and provide the capability to communicate with personnel at appropriate locations, such as contiguous governments within the EPZ, nuclear power plant, personnel at the EOF, all EOCs, and Federal emergency response organizations, as delineated in the plans. All facilities and field teams should have the capability to access at least one communication system that is independent of the commercial telephone system. Responsible OROs should demonstrate the capability to manage the communication systems and ensure that all necessary traffic is handled without delays that might disrupt the conduct of emergency operations.

### **Extent of Play**

Under this criterion, primary and backup communications equipment and procedures for facilities and field units should be demonstrated by the transmission and receipt of exercise messages. OROs should demonstrate that backup communication systems are available and functioning during exercises, if backup communications are in their plans. In general, this demonstration should be accomplished by the use of communications equipment and procedures to support the implementation of emergency response actions. All activities associated with the management of communications capabilities should be demonstrated.

### NUREG

### CRITERION

**N.1.a. 2. All activities described in the demonstration criteria for this objective are carried out in accordance with the plan, unless deviations are provided for in the extent-of-play agreement.**

### **Explanation**

Responsible OROs should demonstrate the capability to follow policies, implement procedures, and utilize equipment and facilities contained in their plans and procedures. OROs should demonstrate that they can follow sequences outlined in the various procedures and perform specified activities, as necessary.

## **Extent of Play**

Under this criterion, all activities should be carried out as specified in the plan, unless deviation from the plan is provided for in the extent-of-play agreement.

## **CLARIFICATION OF TERMS**

**Emergency operations center** refers to a facility that is the primary base of emergency operations for an ORO in a radiological emergency.

**Emergency operations facility** refers to a facility that is the primary base of emergency operations for the licensee in a radiological incident.

**Facility** refers to any building, center, room(s), or mobile unit(s) designed and equipped to support emergency operations.