

# **Total Solar Eclipse 2024**

## **Arkansas Public Safety Communications**

### **Concept of Operations**

Version 1.0

January 24, 2024

On April 8, 2024 a total solar eclipse will cross North America. Two-thirds of the State of Arkansas will be in the path of totality. The maximum duration of totality anywhere along the eclipse path will be 4 minutes 28 seconds. The event will begin in the southwest will exit in the northeast. Between 1.5 and 3 million visitors are expected to visit Arkansas to view the event. As of the writing of this document, many hotels, lodges, and campgrounds are already sold out for the event.

This influx of visitors will pose several problems for emergency responders. Traffic management, medical services and law enforcement will be heavily impacted.

The Arkansas Public Safety Communications Concept of Operations identifies communications specific roles and responsibilities of government and non-governmental organizations. It also provides an overview of communications procedures. The intended audience for this ConOps is emergency management professionals, particularly those involved with communications support for their agency.

#### **Notes**

During the eclipse, telephones should not be relied upon for critical operations. This is due to the anticipated heavy use of cellular devices to access streaming services. Early adoption of FirstNet, Verizon FrontLine, Wireless Priority Service and Government Emergency Telephone Service (WPS and GETS) is highly encouraged at all response levels.

Arkansas Division of Emergency Management's (ADEM's) WebEOC shall be used for interstate EOC communications, coordination, and in developing a common operating picture. Care should be taken to utilize a very robust, secure internet connection not available to the general public. Further, ADEM's WebEOC will be the source for incident related documents.

#### **Communications Assumptions**

- All Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) Radios are programmed with the Arkansas Basic Interoperability Template. (See Appendix A).
- Mutual Aid Channels (MAC) will be reserved for real time, multi-agency events. MAC Call will be held as a hailing talkgroup for use across the entire response.
- Regional Interoperability talkgroups are available for regional use. Guidelines for using these channels appear in the Arkansas Local Operations section.

- AWIN operations determine where the state's sites on wheels will be deployed based on existing coverage and number of visitors expected in an area.
- The commercial cellular network will be congested and should not be relied on for primary communications.
- Members of the amateur radio community are available to assist with communications in their counties

## Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Ensure the safety of Arkansas Citizens and visitors.

- Provide adequate communications planning and resource management through coverage testing and coordination with the vendor community

Goal Two: Ensure the safety of all deployed personnel.

- Provide adequate communications planning and resource management through coverage testing and coordination with the vendor community
- Provide training on the state eclipse communications plan

Goal Three: Ensure all personnel are aware of communications resources and how to use those resources.

- Support the development of local communications plans.
- Support communications planning for responding state agencies.
- Develop and socialize a statewide communications plan.

Goal Four: Identify needs and request additional resources as identified.

- Perform coverage testing in and along the path of totality on the following systems – AWIN, AT&T FirstNet and Verizon.
- Identify best location for AWIN Site's on Wheels's (SOW's)
- Coordinate with the vendor partners to provide additional resources as needed

## Arkansas Local Operations

Local operations should utilize normal talkpaths unless escalation is necessary. Communications planning should follow the PACE (Primary, Alternative, Contingent and Emergency) methodology. Local responding agencies should identify and test the communications systems that they will rely on during the event.

*Escalation coordination talkgroups will be distributed from the AWIN geographical, Law Common, EMS, and the Fire Zones. The SEOC should be notified of those events for situational awareness.*

Interoperability on AWIN will be achieved by using the Regional Interoperability talkgroups. (See Appendix B).

Local (Auxiliary Communications) AUXCOMM assets will utilize local and linked repeater systems for situational awareness to served agencies, and to supply general information for radio-capable tourists (like Talk-ins for ham radio events). Situational awareness may be developed using unaffiliated operators such as General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). Liaison stations will be developed between services with clear instructions for delivering messages to and from the served agencies.

## **Arkansas Regional Operations**

The AWIN Regional Interoperability channels as shown in Appendix B are available for agencies responding to events outside their jurisdictions. Agencies should locate these talkgroups in their radios and conduct drills and exercises to familiar themselves with the talkgroups.

## **Arkansas State Operations**

State Agency operations should utilize normal talkpaths unless escalation is necessary. Communications planning should follow the PACE (Primary, Alternative, Contingent and Emergency) methodology. Responding state agencies should identify and test the communications systems that they will rely on during the event. State resources will utilize AWIN for coordination between state agencies as well as local agencies.

Escalation coordination talkgroups will be distributed from the AWIN Geographical, Law Common, EMS, and the Fire Zones (See Appendix C). The SEOC will be notified of those events for situational awareness.

Geographical talkgroups will be held for planned coordination and control.

AUXCOMM will monitor local repeaters, HF voice nets, and utilize WinLink to pass situational awareness to the SEOC. Situational awareness may be developed using unaffiliated operators. In the event of a total systems failure, priority will be given to communications between the SEOC and local EOCs.

## **Inter-State Operations**

Communications to other states EOC's will be via phone. Email and FNARS will be used if the phone system is not available.

Patches between border state law enforcement and EMS shall be created as needed. Traffic management will be included in this consideration.

These patched talkgroups should be monitored at all times.

AUXCOMM Coordination or Situational Awareness voice nets shall be opened. WinLink shall be fully utilized possible for record-keeping purposes.

## Appendix A

### Arkansas Basic Interoperability Template

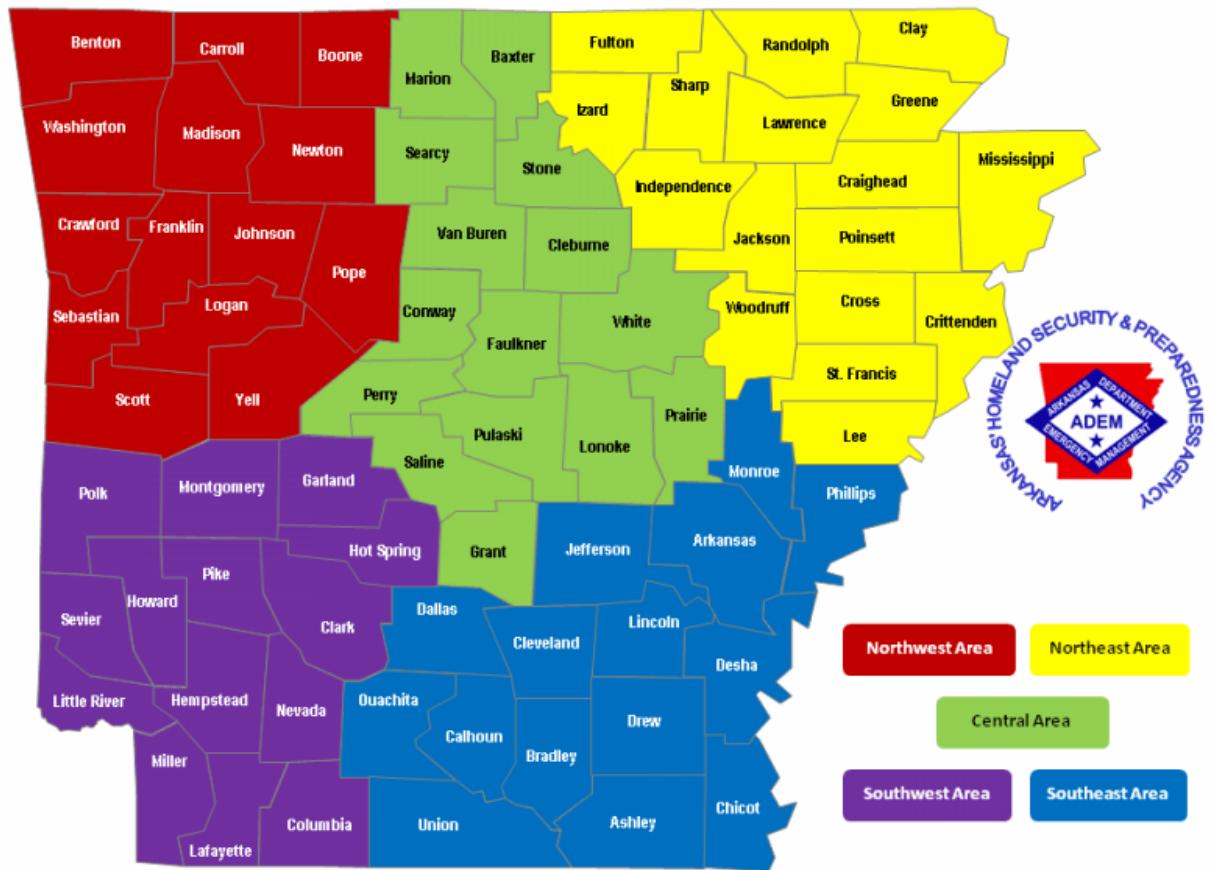
<u>Z1 (ADEM-REG)</u>	<u>Z2 (REGION)</u>	<u>Z3 (MAC)</u>	<u>Z4 ( LAW )</u>	<u>Z5 ( EMS )</u>	<u>Z6 ( FIRE )</u>	<u>Z7 (700 INT)</u>	<u>Z8 (800 INT)</u>	<u>Z9 (AGENCY)</u>
COUNTY TG	SW 1	MAC CALL	A- LAW COM	A- EMS	A- FIRE	7CALL70	8CALL90	
ADEM 1	SW 2	MAC 1	B- LAW COM	B- EMS	B- FIRE	7CALL70D	8CALL90D	
ADEM 2	SW 3	MAC 2	C- LAW COM	C- EMS	C- FIRE	7TAC71	8TAC91	
CENTRAL 1	SW 4	MAC 3	D- LAW COM	D- EMS	D- FIRE	7TAC71D	8TAC91D	
CENTRAL 2	SW 5	MAC 4	E- LAW COM	E- EMS	E- FIRE	7TAC72	8TAC92	
CENTRAL 3	SE 1	MAC 5	F- LAW COM	F- EMS	F- FIRE	7TAC72D	8TAC92D	
CENTRAL 4	SE 2	MAC 6	G- LAW COM	G- EMS	G- FIRE	7TAC73	8TAC93	
CENTRAL 5	SE 3	MAC 7	H- LAW COM	H- EMS	H- FIRE	7TAC73D	8TAC93D	
NW 1	SE 4	MAC 8	I- LAW COM	I- EMS	I- FIRE	7TAC74	8TAC94	
NW 2	SE 5	MAC 9	J-LAW COM	J- EMS	J- FIRE	7TAC74D	8TAC94D	
NW 3	NE 1	MAC 10	K-LAW COM	K- EMS	K- FIRE	7TAC75		
NW 4	NE 2	MAC 11	L- LAW COM	L- EMS	L- FIRE	7TAC75D		
NW 5	NE 3	MAC 12	PRISONER			7TAC76		
	NE 4	MAC 13	SO NET 1			7TAC76D		
	NE 5	MAC 14	SO NET 2					
		MAC 15						

## Appendix B

### Regional Talkgroup Plan (Eclipse Only) and Regional Map

The talkgroup assignments below should be employed when a incident exceeds the local capabilities.

Function	Talkgroup	Assignment	Zone/Position
Command Coordination	Regional 1	Command and General	Z1 (Central & NW), Z2 (SW, SE, NE)
Traffic Coordination	Regional 2	Agency to Agency	Z1 (Central & NW), Z2 (SW, SE, NE)
SAR	Regional 3	SAR	Z1 (Central & NW), Z2 (SW, SE, NE)
Weather	Regional 4	Emergency Management	Z1 (Central & NW), Z2 (SW, SE, NE)
Fire	Regional 5	Fire	Z1 (Central & NW), Z2 (SW, SE, NE)



Example: The Garland County Sheriff receives a report of a missing child at Lake Ouachita. They deploy local resources to begin the search using their day-to-day AWIN talkgroups for coordination. After a few hours they determine that additional resources are needed and reach out to Hot Spring and Clark county personnel for help. At this point operations are moved from local resources to SW3 for regional SAR. As additional state and federal resources (such as Game and Fish or Corps of Engineers) are added, the response continues on the regional channel.

## Appendix C

### Storm Plan

The talkgroup assignments below should be employed when a incident exceeds the single agency capabilities.

Function	Talkgroup	Assignment	Zone/Position
Command	MAC (As Directed)	Command and General Staff	Z3 (ABIT Template)
Agency to Agency	MAC (As Directed)	Agency to Agency	Z3 (ABIT Template)
SAR	MAC (As Directed)	SAR	Z3 (ABIT Template)
Evacuation	MAC (As Directed)	Evacuation	Z3 (ABIT Template)
Law Enforcement	Law Com (Troop letter A - L)	Law	Z4 (ABIT Template)
Medical & Field Hospitals	EMS (Troop letter A - L)	Medical & Field Hospitals	Z5 (ABIT Template)
Fire Response	Fire (Troop letter A - L)	Fire	Z6 (ABIT Template)

