

A satellite image of a tropical cyclone, likely a typhoon, over the Pacific Ocean. The storm is characterized by a dense, swirling cloud structure with a distinct eye in the center. The surrounding clouds are depicted in shades of blue and white, indicating different cloud heights and densities. The landmasses of the Pacific region are visible in the background, outlined in yellow. The text "Disaster Communications" is overlaid in large red font, and "A View from the Other Side" is overlaid in smaller red font below it.

Disaster Communications

A View from the Other Side

The Rules (the 3 B's)

- * Be sincere
- * Be brief
- * Be seated



Disaster Comm

- * FCC must justify services and frequency allocations
- * Amateur service has five reasons for existence
 - Enhance the radio art
 - Advance communications and technical skills
 - Expand number of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts
 - Enhance international good will
 - **PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Who else is in the Game?

- * FEMA
- * National Guard
- * Local Police, Fire, EMS
- * State Police, Highway Patrol
- * Neighboring Police, Fire, EMS
- * Civil Air Patrol
- * CERT

Past Lessons

- * Hurricane Andrew Exposed our flaws
- * Although neighboring agencies could help communications were an issue
- * Protocols, 10-codes, phonetic alphabets were inconsistent across services
- * Incident command was fragmented at all levels, each agency protecting its turf

Changes

- * Incident command system provides unity of command and defined command structure
- * All agencies agreed to use the same phonetics and communication protocols
- * Except for specific prowords all communications would be in plain language

Phonetics

- * ICAO word list (same as Amateur radio)
- * Phonetics & Numbers have clearly defined pronunciations
 - * 9 is niner
 - * Ø is “zero” not “oh”
- * Speak slowly and clearly

ICAO Wordlist

- * Alpha
- * Bravo
- * Charlie
- * Delta
- * Echo
- * Foxtrot
- * Golf
- * Hotel
- * India
- * Juliette
- * Kilo
- * Lima
- * Mike
- * November
- * Oscar
- * Papa
- * Quebec
- * Romeo
- * Sierra
- * Tango
- * Uniform
- * Victor
- * Whiskey
- * X-Ray
- * Yankee
- * Zulu

Numbers

- * Wun
- * Too
- * Thuh-ree
- * Fower
- * Fife
- * Six
- * Seven
- * Ate
- * Niner
- * Zero

Prowords

- * Roger
- * Over
- * Out
- * Wilco
- * Affirmative
- * Negative
- * Wait
- * Wait-out
- * Say again

Net Procedures

- * NCS is in charge (same as ham radio)
- * Directed nets
- * Free nets

Formal Message Traffic

- * Similar to ham radio
- * ALL formal traffic is logged
- * Messages are prioritized
- * Preamble, text, signature
- * Message is tracked from origination to destination

ICS 213 General Message Form

GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name (Optional):		
2. To (Name and Position):		
3. From (Name and Position):		
4. Subject:	5. Date:	6. Time
7. Message:		
8. Approved by: Name: _____ Signature: _____ Position/Title: _____		
9. Reply:		
10. Replied by: Name: _____ Position/Title: _____ Signature: _____		
ICS 213	Date/Time: _____	

What can we do?

- * Learn ICAO word list and make it one of your habits
- * Check into nets and handle formal traffic
- * Take IS-100, IS-700, and IS-800¹
- * Check into emergency training nets
- * Have a “GO” kit ready
- * Get involved with ARES and RACES

¹ <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

Questions?

- * Answers are free
- * Answers are worth what you paid for them!
- * You can wake up now, I'm done!!!