

## DOCUMENT TOPIC

## "MAPS" FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATOR "MUTUAL AID" CAPABILITY

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**ZR SECTION(S):**  ZR1/CMD    ZR2/OPS    ZR3/PLN    ZR4/LOG    ZR5/FIN

**Background:**

Many county or operational area ("OA") jurisdictions lack documented standards specifying the requirements of individual radio operators qualified to provide mutual aid outside their "home unit." For the purposes of this document, the term "mutual aid" will be any assignment that crosses jurisdictional borders. Those borders may be within/among a single operational area or among/between adjacent OA jurisdictions.

The Volunteer Communications Network (V-C-N.org) adopts the philosophy of "closest available resource" (CAR) is the most viable option for jurisdictions with immediate need. In the majority of situations and scenarios, the most likely source for the "CAR" will be the adjacent jurisdiction or the adjacent OA. Cities will certainly look to neighboring cities and counties will look to the county next to them. That "escalation rule" makes "sense" if simple, easy to explain CAR is to be instituted as a viable option when minimal acceptable performance (proficiency) standards (MAPS) are implemented.

**Definition:**

Just like a road map, an individual goes from point "A" to point "B" following a designated route of travel. MAPS are defined as those minimum "common denominator" performance standards to be implemented and evaluated (using objective standards) to increase levels of "anticipated predictability" (expectations) of an emergency "volunteer" responder communicator, AREC or other citizen volunteer radio operator using amateur "ham" radio.

MAPS is like a sequenced "action plan" for emergency communications volunteers wishing to qualify for amateur ("ham") radio emergency communicator (AREC) "mutual aid" status. The MAPS to qualify for "mutual aid" capability under V-C-N.org guidelines are:

- V-F-T-O-M
- Priority #1: Safety
- Priority #2: Monitor
- Priority #3: Confirm
- V-C-N.org Activation/Mobilization Checklist
- (For V-C-N organizations) "ZR2-08AB" SAL and SAL Messages)
- Vehicle Safety Inspection (VSI)
- Standardized ZR Equipment Codes (E-codes)
- ERD: Emergency Resource Directory (ZR4-08AB)
- Deployment Checklist(s)
- ICS-211.ZR (Check-In) Form
- ICS-214.ZR (Daily Log) Form

- ❑ Standardized ZR Position Codes (P-codes)
- ❑ Position Description Guide for “ZR2F” and “ZR2R” P-codes
- ❑ (For V-C-N organizations) “ZR2F” Position Task Book
- ❑ (For V-C-N organizations) “ZR2R” Position Task Book
- ❑ Travel Net (TN) Control Station (TNCS)

**V-C-N.org (Development) Academy Courses**

Volunteer Communications Network (V-C-N.org) Academy courses are available for both “home study” and “in class” presentations. The following courses will be included in this MAPS:

- ❑ 011: Introduction to V-C-N.org (Development) Academy
- ❑ 012: Introduction to V-C-N Operations
- ❑ 026: Introduction to ZRCS
- ❑ 034: Introduction to EmComm – Part 3 (Checklists)
- ❑ 041: Introduction to Standards
- ❑ 042: Introduction to Equipment Standards
- ❑ 051: Introduction to ZRICS
- ❑ 062: Introduction to Position Standards

**Organizational Autonomy**

V-C-N.org and Category “z” radio (ZRICS) respects organizational autonomy with respect to the notification, activation and mobilization systems used by independent organizations. It is the responsibility of those organizations to document and test/evaluate their notification, activation and mobilization systems.

In the interest of enhancing the operational safety of all emergency communicators during “in transit” periods, all organizations are requested to direct resources with “authorization to travel” permissions to “check-in” and maintain contact with the travel net (TN) control station (TNCS) according to V-C-N.org “ZR2-11AA-M” document policy/procedure.

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