

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-21
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013***

Information Technology

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRIORITY

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/OPS34 (B. Werwinski)

Certified by: W/OPS (J. Longenecker)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes National Directive System Policy Directive 60-21, Telecommunications Service Priority, dated, October 31, 2007. Changes made are: 1) Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) was moved from the Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) to the Office of Operational Systems (OPS) in 2010.

1. Priority provisioning and restoration of National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications services is established through the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) program. The program was established by the Federal Communications Commission. The National Communications System (NCS) of the Department of Homeland Security is delegated responsibility for the administration and management of the Federal TSP program. The TSP authorizes and requires commercial telecommunications service vendors to provide and/or restore TSP assigned services before non-TSP services. Provisioning TSP is used to provide priority installation of new telecommunication services, while restoration TSP is used with existing telecommunications services to ensure their restoration before any non-TSP covered services. Critical weather services provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS) are integral to the NS/EP posture of the United States and are eligible for TSP assignments. This directive establishes the policy for use of TSP assignments with NWS Telecommunications circuits.

2. An NWS circuit is considered "mission critical" if an outage of that circuit jeopardizes the ability of the NWS to accomplish its mission to provide timely weather related forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property.

3. This policy will ensure all mission-critical NWS telecommunications circuits will be assigned priority and be more quickly restored when failures occur.

4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

4.1 The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services has established the policy that all NWS mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority coverage.

4.2 All Regional/National Centers for Environmental Prediction Directors are responsible for identifying and ensuring their mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority assignments.

4.3 The OPS is responsible for identifying and ensuring all nationally managed mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority assignments.

4.4 The OPS Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (OPS34), is responsible for the overall management of the NWS TSP Program and will provide the NWS interface to the NCS for all NWS organizations in requesting TSP assignments for NWS circuits. The Chief, OPS34, will ensure the NWS TSP Program is operated in accordance with NCS regulations.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in Attachment 1.

-S- 9/12/13
Louis W. Uccellini Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

ATTACHMENT 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

Official government TSP Web site: http://tsp.ncs.gov/315_pdf_fips.html