

AWIN Process for Common Language Usage

**Required Outcome(s):**

**All users on the AWIN system will utilize common language instead of 10-codes or other cryptic language to facilitate communication in emergencies.**

**Standard:**

**To be in compliance with NIMS, common language will be the required mode of communication for all AWIN radio transmissions in emergency situations.**

Because the safety of responders and the public is of paramount importance, clear communication between all responders is critical. Therefore, establishing a standard method of communication to be used in emergency situations is of the utmost importance. 10-codes hold different meanings in different jurisdictions which leaves the chance for miscommunication wide open. During emergency situations all responders, whether they be local or multi-jurisdictional, must be able to communicate clearly. In addition, they must know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures.

The use of common terminology facilitates the ability of area commanders, State and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and emergency responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

While the National Incident Management System does not require plain language for internal operations, it strongly encourages it, as it is important to practice every day terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters.

It is required that plain language be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. Beginning Fiscal Year 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain language in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions, and functional disciplines.