

Emergency Operations Center Media Access Policy

Effective June 1, 2013

Representatives of the media covering an emergency such as a hurricane, wildfire, bioterrorism threat or any other natural or man-made disaster are allowed access to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or any portable, on-scene command centers only under limited, controlled circumstances.

Media representatives will not be permitted to conduct interviews or report from the EOC (or on-scene command center) while it is being used for staff briefings or other emergency-related meetings. For updates on the information that was provided, reporters can arrange with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to conduct interviews following the meetings. Before being admitted to the EOC (or on-scene command center) media representatives must display appropriate identification and be escorted by the PIO or other member of the Communications staff.

Media may be allowed to record, film or photograph the EOC (or on-scene command center) for brief periods if the reporters or videographers are accompanied by the PIO or other member of the Communications staff and their presence does not interfere with EOC operations.

Every effort will be made to allow media access to the disaster area(s), consistent with safety. If it is not safe or practical to admit all media representatives to the scene, as determined by county emergency response personnel, a media "pool" may be created, where media representatives select one camera crew to take photographs and/or video footage for all.