

**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FOR**  
**EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION OPERATIONS**

- A. This statement of understanding is entered into between (Radio-TV stations and/or Newspapers), hereinafter referred to as the media, and Saline County, hereinafter referred to as the county, to provide emergency information to the citizens of Saline County whenever a threat to life and property exists from natural or man-made causes.
- B. When, in the opinion of the chief executive of Saline County, a threat to life and property exists or threatens Saline County, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of Saline County will be placed on an appropriate status and staffed in accordance with the severity of existing or potential threat, and lines of communication will be opened and maintained for the duration of such threat between the EOC and the media.
- C. The EOC of Saline County will:
1. Provide the media with a description of the threat and the actions that the emergency staff of Saline County is taking to combat the effects of the threat.
  2. Provide immediate guidance for the public to lessen the dangers to life and property from the threat.
  3. Establish with the media, a schedule of briefings on the progress of the threat and additional actions to be taken by the public to lessen the possibility of loss of life and damage to property.
  4. Issue bulletins on any significant change in the threat as those changes occur.
  5. Advise the media that the danger of the threat has passed and that no further EOC operations are necessary.
- D. The media, at their discretion, and within operating limitations imposed by management or any rules and regulations imposed by appropriate government agencies, will:
1. Accept the transmissions from the EOC of Saline County for inclusion in regular news programs or as special news bulletins or to be printed as emergency guidance for the purpose of saving life or reduction of property damage, for the duration of the threat.
  2. Accept and maintain in place any equipment provided for communications and report to Saline County any damage to or outages of such equipment.
  3. Test any equipment provided by Saline County by brief two-way transmissions on the \*(last Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. local time).

NB: THIS STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SALINE COUNTY AND THE MEDIA IS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO ABRIDGE THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS OR TO CONSTRAIN THE EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY INHERENT IN AN OPEN SOCIETY. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING IS TO ESTABLISH A SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA WHEN A THREAT OR POTENTIAL THREAT EXISTS TO THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF SALINE COUNTY.

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For the Media

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For the county

\*Entered as an example only, testing should be established by mutual agreement and entered in the statement of understanding at this point.