



TCOMM911 ERCES Process Overview for Property Owners

1 Introduction

TCOMM911 holds the licenses from the FCC for the frequencies used to operate the public safety radio system in Thurston County.

Note the following process steps for in-building ERCES design and approval:

- Before any property in Thurston County can connect an ERCES to the TCOMM911 radio network, the property owner must have a fully executed Re-Broadcast Agreement with TCOMM911.
- A Re-Broadcast Agreement will only be issued by TCOMM911 once a test of the system is done by TCOMM911 radio technicians.

1.1 Authority for ERCES Requirement

The Washington State Fire Code and Thurston County building codes outline the requirements for in-building emergency responder communication enhancement systems (ERCES). Per NFPA 1221, AHJ fire marshals are the final authority for ERCES requirements for any property.

If the AHJ fire marshal determines that an ERCES is required, the fire marshal will advise TCOMM911 by email at RadioHelpDesk@tcomm911.org with:

- 1) Property owner name, phone number and email
- 2) Civic address for the property
- 3) ERCES vendor name and contact details (if known)

1.2 Working with an ERCES Vendor

Property owners need to work with a qualified ERCES vendor to design, install, and test an ERCES as required by the Washington State Fire Code and local building codes.

1.2.1 Existing Buildings

TCOMM911 recommends that property owners of existing buildings engage with a qualified ERCES vendor to perform a coverage test according to the requirements detailed in section 5.10.5.4 of the Washington State Fire Code.

1.2.2 New Construction

TCOMM911 urges property developers to plan for the installation of an ERCES during the design and construction phase of a new project regardless of whether a system is initially deemed necessary.

1.3 Completion of Uplink Validation Testing

The ERCES vendor will arrange an uplink validation test once the ERCES is installed and ready to connect to the TCOMM911 network. No ERCES can be connected to the radio network until this test is done. The test validates that the ERCES is operating correctly and does not impact the performance of the overall TCOMM911 radio network.



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When testing is successfully done, TCOMM911 will issue the re-broadcast agreement to the property owner, copied to vendor, and local AHJ fire marshal. This re-broadcast agreement does not replace or ensure compliance to the Washington State Fire Code or building codes in Thurston County.

2 Determining the need for an ERCES

2.1.1 Existing Building

If the AHJ fire marshal determines that an existing building should be retrofitted with an ERCES, the property owner should contract with a reputable ERCES vendor to perform a coverage test of their building to validate existing coverage. Section 5.10.5.4 of the Washington State Fire Code details the testing requirements.

2.1.2 New Building

- New buildings that are designed to LEED certified standards with low-E glass typically will not have good public safety radio coverage. These buildings are good candidates for ERCES.
- ERCES requirements for other types of construction should be evaluated by a qualified RF Engineer.

2.2 Ongoing Monitoring

The requirement for annual testing of all in-service ERCES is defined in Washington State Fire Code section 510.6.1 Testing and proof of compliance.