


<b>REGIONAL WIRELESS COOPERATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	 <b>Regional Wireless Cooperative</b>
	No. O-06.11
Subject: Interoperability Talkgroups Procedure	Effective Date 3/23/11 Rev: 02/11/15

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this procedure is to support the use of interoperability talkgroups.

## 2.0 Owner

- 2.1. RWC Operations Work Group (OWG)

## 3.0 Applies To

- 3.1. All Members, Associates, Conditional Participants, and Interoperability Participants that have access to RWC interoperability talkgroups.

## 4.0 Background

- 4.1. In order to facilitate interoperable communications, the RWC identified talkgroups that are wide area to be used for intermittent interoperable situations. This is to include planned multi-agency special events, emergency situations and other unplanned operations. Some talkgroups have been identified as clear-voice and others are encrypted.
- 4.2. In most cases day-to-day communications will take place on Member agency operational talkgroups. In the following situations, Member agencies will need to move communications to interoperability talkgroups:
  - 4.2.1. To communicate with other users who do not have the agency's internal talk group(s).
  - 4.2.2. To allow another user to monitor communications when they do not have access to the agency's internal talk group(s).

## 5.0 Policy Statement

- 5.1. These talkgroups can be used to facilitate communications among agencies that typically do not communicate with each other on a routine basis and to support effective command and control of major incidents under the NIMS protocol.

## 6.0 Supporting Rules

- 6.1. Interoperability talkgroups are currently identified as G, H, L and O decks.
- 6.2. To use the interoperability talkgroups, an RWC member must be involved.
- 6.3. The G, H, L and O deck interoperability talkgroups have been identified for unplanned emergency situations and planned operations.
  - 6.3.1. The G, H and O deck interoperability talkgroups 1-5 are allocated for unplanned operations.
  - 6.3.2. The G, H and O deck interoperability talkgroups 6-16 are allocated for planned operations.
  - 6.3.3. The L deck interoperability talkgroups 2-15 are allocated for planned or unplanned operations.
  - 6.3.4. Extenuating events or circumstances may override these assignments.
- 6.4. When the same resources are requested for two or more incidents, assignments should be based on the priority levels listed below:
  - 6.4.1. Priority 1: Disasters, large scale incidents, or extreme emergencies requiring mutual aid or interagency communications.
  - 6.4.2. Priority 2: Incidents where imminent danger exists to life or property.
  - 6.4.3. Priority 3: Other incidents requiring the response of multiple agencies.
  - 6.4.4. Priority 4: Pre-planned events requiring mutual aid or interagency communications.
  - 6.4.5. Priority 5: Incidents involving a single agency where supplemental communications are needed for short term agency use.
  - 6.4.6. Drills, tests and exercises.
- 6.5. In the event of multiple simultaneous incidents within the same priority level, interoperability talkgroups should be allocated with the following priorities in mind:
  - 6.5.1. Incidents with the greatest level of exigency (e.g., greater threat to life or property, more immediate need) have priority over less exigent incidents.
  - 6.5.2. Agencies with single/limited interoperable options have priority use of those options over agencies with multiple interoperable options.
  - 6.5.3. When at all possible, agencies already using an interoperable asset during an event should not be redirected to another resource.
- 6.6. Use of current interoperability decks may be requested by any RWC member. The RWC member must check the electronic interoperability calendar to identify an available talk group.
  - 6.6.1. The RWC member involved in the operation must be the one that reserves the talk group on the calendar.
  - 6.6.2. All calendar appointments must include point of contact information, including phone number and agency name.

- 6.6.3. Any non-RWC member that needs to reserve an interoperability talk group for a planned operation must make the request through the involved RWC member.
- 6.7. There is no support for emergency alert functions on G, H, L and O interoperability talkgroups.
- 6.8. RWC members do not provide dispatch monitoring for G, H, L and O interoperability talkgroups on a routine basis. Agencies must make arrangements for dispatch monitoring while planning their event.
- 6.9. If an encrypted talk group is patched to an unencrypted talk group both talkgroups should be treated as clear voice or unencrypted.
- 6.10. There should be no expectation that the interoperability talkgroups are recorded.

## **7.0 Responsibilities**

- 7.1. RWC members will ensure all of the interoperability deck repeaters are turned off when not in use.
- 7.2. The RWC member that is involved in the operation will place a patch on the single talk group or group of talkgroups in use.
  - 7.2.1. The patch will allow other RWC dispatch centers instant information on which RWC member is using the interoperable talk group.
  - 7.2.2. The agency making the initial patch is the only agency that can add or subtract agencies from that patch.
- 7.3. Agencies using the interoperability talkgroups must use the following protocols:
  - 7.3.1. Use only plain language, no codes or call types
  - 7.3.2. Identify their agency and unit's call sign at the start of each transmission
- 7.4. Interoperability deck talkgroups must be labeled the same on all subscribers as identified below.

Zone	Label
G	01 INT A
G	02 INT B
G	03 INT C
G	04 INT D
G	05 INT E
G	06 INT F
G	07 INT G
G	08 INT H
G	09 INT I
G	10 INT J
G	11 INT K
G	12 INT L
G	13 INT M
G	14 INT N
G	15 INT O
G	16 DYNRGP

Zone	Label
H	01 PS 01
H	02 PS 02
H	03 PS 03
H	04 PS 04
H	05 PS 05
H	06 PS 06
H	07 PS 07
H	08 PS 08
H	09 PS 09
H	10 PS 10
H	11 PS 11
H	12 PS 12
H	13 PS 13
H	14 PS 14
H	15 PS 15
H	16 PS 16

Zone	Label
L	01 PFDDISP
L	02 EVENT 2
L	03 EVENT 3
L	04 EVENT 4
L	05 EVENT 5
L	06 EVENT 6
L	07 EVENT 7
L	08 EVENT 8
L	09 EVENT 9
L	10 EVENT 10
L	11 EVENT 11
L	12 EVENT 12
L	13 EVENT 13
L	14 EVENT 14
L	15 EVENT 15
L	16 EVENT 16

Zone	Label
O	01 OCEAN 1
O	02 OCEAN 2
O	03 OCEAN 3
O	04 OCEAN 4
O	05 OCEAN 5
O	06 OCEAN 6
O	07 OCEAN 7
O	08 OCEAN 8
O	09 OCEAN 9
O	10 OCEAN 10
O	11 OCEAN 11
O	12 OCEAN 12
O	13 OCEAN 13
O	14 OCEAN 14
O	15 OCEAN 15
O	16 OCEAN 16

## 8.0 Conditions for Exemption or Waiver

8.1. - As provided in the Waiver or Exception Policy.

## 9.0 Applicable Procedures:

9.1. As listed at [www.rwcaz.org](http://www.rwcaz.org)