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. Priority1: 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	Zone	Label	Zone	Label	Zone	Label
G	01 INT A	H	01 PS 01	L	01 PFDDISP	O	01 OCEAN 1
G	02 INT B	H	02 PS 02	L	02 EVENT 2	O	02 OCEAN 2
G	03 INT C	H	03 PS 03	L	03 EVENT 3	O	03 OCEAN 3
G	04 INT D	H	04 PS 04	L	04 EVENT 4	O	04 OCEAN 4
G	05 INT E	H	05 PS 05	L	05 EVENT 5	O	05 OCEAN 5
G	06 INT F	H	06 PS 06	L	06 EVENT 6	O	06 OCEAN 6
G	07 INT G	H	07 PS 07	L	07 EVENT 7	O	07 OCEAN 7
G	08 INT H	H	08 PS 08	L	08 EVENT 8	O	08 OCEAN 8
G	09 INT I	H	09 PS 09	L	09 EVENT 9	O	09 OCEAN 9
G	10 INT J	H	10 PS 10	L	10 EVENT 10	O	10 OCEAN 10
G	11 INT K	H	11 PS 11	L	11 EVENT 11	O	11 OCEAN 11
G	12 INT L	H	12 PS 12	L	12 EVENT 12	O	12 OCEAN 12
G	13 INT M	H	13 PS 13	L	13 EVENT 13	O	13 OCEAN 13
G	14 INT N	H	14 PS 14	L	14 EVENT 14	O	14 OCEAN 14
G	15 INT O	H	15 PS 15	L	15 EVENT 15	O	15 OCEAN 15
G	16 DYNRGP	H	16 PS 16	L	16 EVENT 16	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