

REGIONAL WIRELESS COOPERATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
	No. O-15.26
Subject: RWC Interference Procedure	07/2026

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To establish fair, consistent, and sound procedure for identifying, reporting, and resolving radio frequency interference affecting the Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC) Network — while maintaining respectful relationships with the public and individual members.

2.0 Owner

- 2.1. RWC Operations Working Group (OWG).

3.0 Applies To

- 3.1. Any entities causing interference on the RWC network.

4.0 Background

- 4.1. The RWC'S first obligation is to maintain reliable, interference-free network for its members.
- 4.2. Radio interference may impair system performance across a range of severities, from effects that go unnoticed by users to total loss of radio communications.
- 4.3. All interference response actions shall be proportional to the severity and intent of the interference.
- 4.4. When possible, the RWC will attempt to resolve interference through education and cooperation before escalating to regulatory or legal action.
- 4.5. Intentional and malicious interference will be escalated regardless of severity.

5.0 Supporting Rules

5.1. Causes of Interference

5.1.1. Incidental / Environmental

Interference with an identifiable, non-malicious source (faulty equipment, harmonics, intermodulation). Source is likely unaware of generating radio interference.

5.1.2. Unintentional / Operator Error

A licensed or unlicensed user operating outside their authorized parameters, using misconfigured or non-compliant equipment.

5.1.3. Intentional / Malicious

Deliberate transmission intended to disrupt network operations, including the use of jammers or repeated keying to block communications. As previously stated, regardless of severity, interference will be treated as critical and escalated to the appropriate law enforcement agency, including an ACTIC/Threat Liaison Tips and Leads submission.

5.2. Detection and Documentation

5.2.1. Before any contact with a source the RWC shall document:

- 5.2.1.1. Classify the severity (in reference to 5.3).
- 5.2.1.2. Date, time, and duration of interference events.
- 5.2.1.3. Affected frequencies and tower locations.
- 5.2.1.4. Signal characteristics (tone, noise, voice, data bursts, etc.).
- 5.2.1.5. Any direction-finding or triangulation data collected.

5.3. Severity (Based on a -120dB noise floor)

Noise Floor Impact

Severity

Severity 1

Severity 2

Severity 3

Noise Floor Elevation

30dB or greater

20dB or greater

10dB or greater

Site/Network Impact

Severity

Severity 1

Severity 2

Severity 3

Channels Affected

4 or more channels

2-3 channels

1 channel

6.0 Responsibilities

6.1. Response (based on severity)

6.1.1. Severity 1 – Immediate Response Required

A Severity 1 event represents a critical interference condition with the potential to significantly degrade or disrupt public safety communications. An immediate response shall be initiated upon identification or notification of the event. All available diagnostic and direction-finding resources shall be deployed as quickly as possible to locate and resolve the source of the interference. Supervisory, management, and relevant public safety personnel shall be notified immediately. All actions, findings, and resolution steps shall be documented in real time where possible. The event shall remain open and actively worked until the interference is resolved or mitigated to an acceptable level.

6.1.2. Severity 2 – Expedited Resolution

A Severity 2 event represents a moderate interference condition with measurable impact to a site or network performance. Personnel shall initiate active troubleshooting as soon as practicable and document all findings and actions taken. Resolution shall be pursued as quickly as operational resources allow. A written summary of the interference event and resolution shall be retained upon closure.

6.1.3. Severity 3 – Monitor and Address When Possible

A Severity 3 event represents a low-level interference condition that does not immediately threaten network performance. Personnel shall acknowledge the condition, document the initial observation, and monitor for any change in scope or intensity. If the interference persists or worsens, the classification shall be re-evaluated. Resolution efforts should be made when resources and conditions are reasonably allowed, but do not require immediate escalation or dedicated response resources.

7.0 Conditions for Exemption or Waiver

7.1. As provided in the Waiver or Exception Policy.

8.0 Applicable Policies and/or Procedures

8.1. As listed at www.rwcaz.org.