


<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGIONAL WIRELESS COOPERATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b></p>	
	<p><b>No.</b> <b>O-06.11</b></p>
<p><b>Subject:</b> <b>Interoperability Talkgroups Procedure</b></p>	<p><b>Revised: 07/2020</b></p> <p><b>Prior Rev:</b> <b>10/2019</b> <b>03/2011</b></p>

**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 Working 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. To facilitate interoperable communications, the RWC identified talkgroups to be used for intermittent interoperable situations. This is to include planned multi-agency special events, emergency situations and other unplanned operations. Talkgroups have been configured as either unencrypted or encrypted.

4.2. In most cases day-to-day communications will take place on RWC Member operational talkgroups. In the following situations, 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. Interoperability talkgroups are used to facilitate communications between agencies that do not communicate with each other on a routine basis.

- 5.2. Interoperability talkgroups can support effective command and control of major incidents under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

## **6.0 Supporting Rules**

- 6.1. Standard interoperability talkgroups are located in G, L and O decks.
- 6.2. Encrypted interoperability talkgroups are located in H and P decks.
  - 6.2.1. Encrypted talkgroups may be used between RWC Members and authorized interoperability participants.
  - 6.2.2. Approval for use of encrypted talkgroups will be managed by exception.
- 6.3. The use of any RWC Interoperability talkgroup must be coordinated by an RWC Member.
- 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 interoperability decks may be requested by any RWC member. The RWC member must check the electronic interoperability scheduler 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 scheduler.
  - 6.6.2. All scheduler appointments must include contact information, including email address, 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 any interoperability talkgroup.
- 6.8. RWC members do not provide dispatch monitoring for any interoperability talkgroup on a routine basis. Agencies must arrange for dispatch monitoring while planning their event.
- 6.9. There should be no expectation that the interoperability talkgroups are recorded.

**7.0 Responsibilities**

- 7.1. RWC members will ensure all interoperability deck repeaters are turned off when not in use.
- 7.2. Agencies using the interoperability talkgroups must use the following protocols:
  - 7.2.1. Use only plain language, no codes or call types
  - 7.2.2. Identify their agency and unit’s call sign at the start of each transmission
- 7.3. Interoperability deck talkgroups must be labeled the same on all subscribers as identified below.

<i>ZONE</i>	<i>ZONE</i>	<i>ZONE</i>	<i>ZONE</i>	<i>ZONE</i>
<b>G DECK</b>	<b>H DECK</b>	<b>L DECK</b>	<b>O DECK</b>	<b>P DECK</b>
G01 INT A	H01 PS 01	L01 FIREDISP	O01 OCEAN 01	P01 EOS 01
G02 INT B	H02 PS 02	L02 EVENT 02	O02 OCEAN 02	P02 EOS 02
G03 INT C	H03 PS 03	L03 EVENT 03	O03 OCEAN 03	P03 EOS 03
G04 INT D	H04 PS 04	L04 EVENT 04	O04 OCEAN 04	P04 EOS 04
G05 INT E	H05 PS 05	L05 EVENT 05	O05 OCEAN 05	P05 EOS 05
G06 INT F	H06 PS 06	L06 EVENT 06	O06 OCEAN 06	P06 EOS 06
G07 INT G	H07 PS 07	L07 EVENT 07	O07 OCEAN 07	P07 EOS 07
G08 INT H	H08 PS 08	L08 EVENT 08	O08 OCEAN 08	P08 EOS 08
G09 INT I	H09 PS 09	L09 EVENT 09	O09 OCEAN 09	P09 EOS 09
G10 INT J	H10 PS 10	L10 EVENT 10	O10 OCEAN 10	P10 EOS 10
G11 INT K	H11 PS 11	L11 EVENT 11	O11 OCEAN 11	P11 EOS 11
G12 INT L	H12 PS 12	L12 EVENT 12	O12 OCEAN 12	P12 EOS 12
G13 INT M	H13 PS 13	L13 EVENT 13	O13 OCEAN 13	P13 EOS 13
G14 INT N	H14 PS 14	L14 EVENT 14	O14 OCEAN 14	P14 EOS 14
G15 INT O	H15 PS 15	L15 EVENT 15	O15 OCEAN 15	P15 EOS 15
G16 DYNRGP	H16 PS 16	L16 EVENT 16	O16 OCEAN 16	P16 EOS 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).