

METROPOLITAN AREA REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

No.	M12-03	Multi-Agency Emergency Response		
Effective: 1/22/15 Modified: 1/18/17	Revised:	Related Documents: MARRS Appendix A – Radio System Talkgroup Assignments	Page 1 of 2	
Authority: MARRS Management Council				

Police:

A regional emergency response talkgroup will be designated for use when assistance is needed in rapidly developing and cross jurisdictional situations including pursuits and assist the officers. During a pursuit, the agency originating the pursuit will determine if it is growing to the point of involving other agencies. When this determination is made, the originating agency dispatch center (PSAP) will patch their agency talkgroup to the regional pursuit talkgroup. If possible, the PSAP should announce the patch over PS_DISP. Any other agency joining the pursuit shall communicate directly on the regional emergency response talkgroup.

The communications center will verify availability of the appropriate Regional Common Talkgroup (Reg Com) by briefly monitoring radio traffic. Selection should be completed beginning with Reg Com 3. Once a Reg Com channel is identified, the communications center will patch the Reg Com talkgroup with the original operating talkgroup for seamless communications. If Reg Com 3 is already in use, proceed numerically, starting with Reg Com 5, to the first available talkgroup. Reg Com 3 is the primary channel for law enforcement operations with Reg Com 5 and Reg Com 6 being secondary talkgroups. Reg com 4 should primarily be used for air to ground communications.

The originating agency PSAP will manage communications for all units involved in the active pursuit.

If the originating agency chooses to relinquish the pursuit to another agency for operational reasons, the agency taking control of the pursuit will be primary both in the field and communications.

The originating agency PSAP shall make contact with the agency PSAP that will be assuming communications for the pursuit. Once communications have been handed off to the agency PSAP assuming communications, the originating agency *may* drop the patch. The pursuit would continue on the regional emergency response talk group.

In general, dispatch centers should not activate audible tones on the regional emergency response talkgroup. Audible tones may be necessary if field units are not hearing critical information such as a change in strategy or a necessary move to a different talkgroup. When it is needed, dispatch centers should activate a single audible tone.

For ease in training and locating during an escalating event, it is suggested that the primary regional emergency response talkgroup be located in the primary dispatch zone and easily accessible in all law enforcement radios.

A back-up talkgroup will be identified in the event that more than one incident is occurring in the region that would require the use of an emergency response talkgroup. The talkgroup assignments can be found in **MARRS Appendix A – Radio System Talkgroup Assignments.**

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Fire:

It shall be the responsibility of communications personnel dispatching the incident, as either the requesting agency or the requested agency, to establish communications for mutual/automatic aid companies to speak on the other agency’s talkgroup(s). Communications personnel can use the PS_DISP talkgroup on the console to coordinate communications with the responding agency(s) dispatch center and inform them what talkgroup their unit(s) need to be using. As the requesting communications center, it will be necessary to establish communications between incoming mutual/automatic aid companies and companies already on the scene working the incident with their normal operating talkgroup and/or on their way to the scene.

This communication will be established with the following procedures:

1. All current on scene/responsible jurisdiction communications will remain on the assigned talkgroup to prevent talkgroup changes beyond their normal operations.
2. The communications center will verify availability of the appropriate Regional Common Talkgroup (Reg Com) 7 through 14 by briefly monitoring radio traffic. Selection should be completed beginning with Reg Com 7. Once a Reg Com channel is identified, the communications center will patch the Reg Com talkgroup with the original operating talkgroup for seamless communications. If Reg Com 7 is already in use, proceed numerically to the first available talkgroup. Reg Com 7 is the primary channel for fire operations with Reg Com 8 being secondary.
3. The communications center will advise the mutual/automatic aid agency of the designated talkgroup that has been assigned to the mutual/automatic aid companies for response coordination.
4. Incoming mutual aid companies will conduct all radio operations on the designated Reg Com talkgroup for the duration of their involvement.
5. When all mutual aid involvement has ended, the requesting center will remove the patch and all mutual/automatic aid agencies will return to normal operations per their protocol.

As the requested communications center, it will be necessary to communicate the designated Reg Com talkgroup to the responding mutual/automatic aid companies they are responsible for dispatching.

All radio traffic on regional emergency response talkgroups will be unencrypted.