

# Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

Policy # 05-2000	Adopted: December 6, 2000	Approved by:
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OFFICIAL POLICY Inter-agency Talkgroup Operations (C-Switch)

DATE: December 6, 2000

PURPOSE: To regulate and manage the use of PPRCN talkgroups designated for inter-agency operations.

SCOPE: All agencies operating radios on the PPRCN System

**Discussion:** One of the primary purposes of the PPRCN System is to provide efficient radio communications between all Public Safety and general Government users. Sixteen talkgroups are designated for this purpose and they are known as the "C-Switch" talkgroups because of their location on all portable Trunked radios on the System. They are comprised of sets of talkgroups that are used to meet different operational needs. One of these talkgroups, (EPSO RED), is monitored 24/7 to provide all System users a contact point for inter-agency communications.

In as much as every radio on the PPRCN system is programmed with the C-Switch talkgroups, specific protocols are necessary to insure their availability to all users. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office will maintain the contact point for requesting use of these talkgroups. Requesting radio users can (a) obtain approval for use of an interagency talkgroup(s), (b) be assigned a specific talkgroup(s), and (c) obtain assistance in having other users group members join them on the specified talkgroup. The maintenance of this resource is complex and time consuming. Radio users must respect this situation.

The interagency talkgroups are used for the following types of situations:

- ◆ Mutual aid fire operations.
- ◆ Major emergencies involving numerous agencies.
- ◆ Joint operations between different jurisdictions.
- ◆ Blizzard related operations.
- ◆ Large scaled events requiring the coordination of activities by different agency types.
- ◆ Communications between user agencies and Colorado Springs Utilities (digital/analog).

**Policy:**

All agencies operating on the PPRCN System will request authorization before they are to be assigned use of Inter-agency talkgroups.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Interagency (C-Switch) talkgroups are comprised of the following sets:

Dispatcher monitored talkgroups.

- C-1, "EPSO RED", The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the central point of contact and management of these resources.
- C-16, "CSPD GRN", The Colorado Springs Police Department.
- C-15, "CSU DISP", Colorado Springs Utilities, ( Utilities uses analog Trunked radios. They cannot communicate on anything but analog talkgroups).

Digital talkgroups for interoperability:

- C-2, "BLUE CMD"
- C-3, "BLUE OPS"
- C-4, "RUBY CMD"
- C-5, "RUBY OPS"
- C-6, "GREY CMD"
- C-7, "GREY OPS"

Analog talkgroups for interoperability:

- C-8, "Brown"
- C-9, "Orange"

Talkgroups used to communicate with agencies not part of the PPRCN:

- C-10, "ICALL", a dispatch monitored talkgroup for receiving radio transmissions from agencies not part of the PPRCN.
- C-11, "ITAC 1", a talkgroup for interoperability with outside agencies.
- C-12, "ITAC 2", a talkgroup for interoperability with outside agencies.
- C-13, "ITAC 3", a talkgroup for interoperability with outside agencies.
- C-14, "ITAC 4", a talkgroup for interoperability with outside agencies.

The dispatcher on EPSO RED is responsible for authorizing the use of these talkgroups, assignment and tracking their use. The Sheriff's Office dispatcher will only record user agencies working on a specified talkgroup. They will not track or keep dispositions on individuals.

## USE OF INTERAGENCY TALKGROUPS

To avoid confusion, a radio user requesting an interagency talkgroup will use their complete call sign when contacting EPSO RED and while working with other user agencies.

A member of the user agency requesting the use of an interagency talkgroups is responsible for advising the EPSO RED dispatcher when their operation is completed and the talkgroup(s) is available for use again. This is necessary to insure all user agencies have equal access to these resources.

Upon receiving a request for a talkgroup, the EPSO RED dispatcher will assign a specific interagency talkgroup. The requesting radio user will then switch to the designated talkgroup. If the requesting radio user requires communication with members of other user agencies, the EPSO RED dispatcher will then attempt to make contact with the needed user agency and advise them of the designated talkgroup. The dispatcher is not required to relay messages or information. The user agency members are responsible for their own communications.

In the event that the EPSO RED dispatcher cannot make contact with the requested user agency, they are to advise the requesting radio user of this situation. It is imperative that requesting radio users be clear, specific and concise when asking for another user agency.

User agencies are prohibited from using interagency talkgroups without the specific approval of the EPSO RED dispatcher, even for short conversations or messages. These talkgroups could already be assigned to other user agencies and the unauthorized transmissions would interfere with their operations. Failure to comply with this policy can result in limitation on the offending user agency's access to resources of the PPRCN system.

C SWITCH	<i>Note: These talkgroups appear in digital portable radios on "C"</i>	
1	EPSO RED	<b>EI Paso S O Fire Dispatch</b>
2	<b>BLUE COM</b>	I/A Blue Incident Channel Command *
3	BLUE OPS	I/A Blue Incident Channel Operations *
4	GOLD COM	I/A Gold Incident Channel Command *
5	GOLD OPS	I/A Gold Incident Channel Operations *
6	GRAY COM	I/A Gray Incident Channel Command *
7	GRAY OPS	I/A Gray Incident Channel Operations *
8	BROWN TAC	I/A Brown Incident Tactical Channel **
9	ORANGE TAC	I/A Orange Incident Tactical Channel **
10	I CALL	I CALL Mutual Aid Channel (outside system use) ^
11	I TAC 1	ITAC 1 Mutual Aid Channel (outside system use) #
12	I TAC 2	ITAC 2 Mutual Aid Channel (outside system use) #
13	I TAC 3	ITAC 3 Mutual Aid Channel (outside system use) #
14	I TAC 4	ITAC 4 Mutual Aid Channel (outside system use) #
15	CSU DISP	CSU Dispatch
16	CSFD 2	CSFD Dispatch (Secondary)

\* Interagency channels - Available for use on any multi-agency (2 or more agencies) incident. Example - a situation involving 2 or more Fire Departments, A Fire Department and a police agency, Colorado Springs Utilities and a fire department unit. Assignment of channels must be requested through EPSO RED Channel.

\*\* Interagency Tactical Channels (Analog) - To be used to support interagency channels above as tactical channels in large developing incidents as additional support channels Example – Staging, Logistics. Alternatively, may be used for a smaller interagency incident requiring only a single channel. Should be employed in any incident involving CSU radios.

^ ICALL - Contact Channel - To be used to contact a dispatch in whatever system the radio user is located. The radio user will then be assigned an ITAC Channel for the incident in which he/she is involved.

# ITAC Channels may also be used as a simplex channel by rotation of the selector ring below the channel selection knob. Selector ring in this position  $\circ$ , for normal ITAC Channel operation. When selector ring is rotated to this position  $\emptyset$ , the channel is in simplex mode. The radio will show the following display → when operated in simplex mode.