



Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) Standards, Protocols, Procedures



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State Standard Number	1.13.0	
Standard Title	SIRN Direct (Radio-to-Radio) Channels	
Date Established	11/29/2021	
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1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this Standard is to provide protocols, procedures, and operating parameters for short range *direct*, radio-to-radio or simplex communications channels.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

Direct or simplex channels enable communications *directly* between radios without using system or network resources. On behalf of SIRN users, the North Dakota Information Technology (NDIT) has licensed a set of “ND DIRECT” channels in the 700 MHz spectrum band for use within and anywhere in the State by any State, Local and Tribal agencies.

- **Constraints**

DIRECT channels operate “off-network” and hence are not monitored by PSAPs and have limited range. In addition, multiple agencies have access to and share the same set of DIRECT channels. Therefore, it is essential that each agency that uses the DIRECT channels develop internal policies outlining when and how that agency uses those resources.

3. Operational Context

Agencies may elect to use DIRECT channels for a variety of purposes including:

- To off-load communications from the SIRN
- In areas with unreliable SIRN coverage
- Other operational needs

Use of ND DIRECT channels for any purpose must comply with this Standard.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard

Channel Description

All SIRN User Agencies with a public safety function shall program the following fifteen (15) ND DIRECT channels for intra- or inter-agency communications. Any agency may use the DIRECT channels





Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) Standards, Protocols, Procedures



for its internal agency needs provided that the specific assigned use cases indicated in the table are observed.

Channel Name	Frequency, NAC	Maximum Power (ERP)	Function
7CALL70 D	773.25625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC71 D	773.10625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC72 D	773.60625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC73 D	774.10625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC74 D	774.60625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC75 D	773.75625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7TAC76 D	774.25625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7GTAC77 D	774.85625 , 293 NAC	35 W	General public safety
7MOB 79D	774.50625 , 293 NAC	35 W	Mobile Repeater
7LAW81 D	774.00625 , 293 NAC	35 W	Law Enforcement
7LAW82 D	774.35625 , 293 NAC	35 W	Law Enforcement
7FIRE83 D	773.50625 , 293 NAC	35 W	Fire
7FIRE84 D	773.85625 , 293 NAC	35 W	Fire
7MED86 D	773.00625 , 293 NAC	35 W	EMS
7MED87 D	773.35625 , 293 NAC	35 W	EMS

Radio Programming Guidelines

Radio display names for all frequencies configured for DIRECT communications shall have the suffix “D.”

All agencies operating on SIRN are required to program the entire set of ND DIRECT channels in their radios. See *SIRN Standard 1.8.0 Minimum Programming Standard* for details on how to organize those resources within the device programming template.

In addition to complying with the Minimum Programming requirements, agencies may include any number of ND DIRECT channels within their HOME zone for easier access to these resources.

5. Recommended Procedure

Usage and Coordination

Units requiring use of a ND DIRECT channel shall verify that the channel is available via on-air announcement and indicate their intent to use the channel.

Because multiple local agencies may use the DIRECT channels, it is essential that, each County or jurisdiction, develop policies to coordinate the use of ND DIRECT channels among its agencies in the event that multiple agencies at a scene require access.

DIRECT communications at a scene must be overseen by an incident commander (IC). The IC shall allocate DIRECT channels for emergent or unplanned events.





Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) Standards, Protocols, Procedures



Scanning Guidelines

DIRECT channels may be included in scan lists. However, users must be aware that adding DIRECT channels into a mixed mode scan list (a scan list with both trunked and conventional resources) delays the device's scanning capabilities and can result in missed radio traffic.

FCC Regulations and Other Applicable SIRN Standards

Use of DIRECT channels shall additionally adhere to all applicable FCC, ANSI and NTIA standards and rules.

Note that the ND DIRECT channels are a subset of the national mutual aid channels. See SIRN Standard 1.15.0x.x National Mutual Aid Conventional Channels for additional guidelines on the use of these 700 MHz and other nationwide simplex channels.

6. Management

The Statewide Executive Interoperability Committee (SIEC) and the SIRN Statewide System Administrator are collectively responsible for oversight of this policy.