



Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN)

Standards, Protocols, Procedures



Document Section	1 - Interoperability Standards	Status: SIEC Sub Committee Approval Date: 6/28/2021 SIEC Approval: 6/28/2021
State Standard Number	1.5.0	
Standard Title	Use of Shared Talkgroups	
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1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to provide a formal process for talkgroup-sharing authorization at the local or agency level. Individual agencies may, at their discretion, allow other jurisdictions (typically neighboring, State, or Federal agencies with whom they frequently collaborate) access to their internal talkgroups.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

Inter-agency talkgroup-sharing or cross-programming is a practical approach to facilitate cross-jurisdictional interoperability. Agencies or jurisdictions with frequent mutual aid efforts should *share* their internal talkgroups with their common mutual aid partners and neighboring jurisdictions. By programming their mutual aid partners’ primary or operational talkgroups into their radios, agencies can communicate directly with their partners without the use of the SIRN Interoperability Talkgroups.

- **Constraints**

Local SIRN talkgroups are designed for and allocated to specific agencies for internal communications needs. Use of agency-specific talkgroups by unauthorized, unknown or unannounced personnel from other jurisdictions (or otherwise) can compromise the mission or cause confusion.

3. Operational Context

Agencies involved in frequent or daily collaboration with their neighboring jurisdictions are encouraged to share (or cross-program) their talkgroups for monitoring or collaboration purposes. When programming shared talkgroups, agencies should organize them into specific zones of their radios. See SIRN Standard 1.8.0 Minimum Programming Requirements on how to program radios with shared talkgroups.

SIRN provides regional and statewide talkgroups (ND MA Talkgroups) for larger incidents or planned events involving multiple jurisdictions and multiple disciplines. These ND MA talkgroups are not intended for daily or regular localized communications across neighboring jurisdictions; shared talkgroups are recommended for such purposes.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard





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Agencies seeking to program another jurisdiction's local talkgroups into their radios must obtain formal authorization as follows:

- Inter-agency talkgroup-sharing or cross-programming **MUST** be facilitated through *SIRN Shared Talkgroup Letter of Authorization* or Memorandums of Agreement (MOU) between the participating agencies.
- Agreements shall define general terms of use, including the list of shared talkgroups, agency personnel/divisions permitted to use the shared talkgroups, the ability to scan, and other variables such as types of incidents during which shared talkgroups will be accessed by agencies, encryption capabilities, etc.

5. Recommended Procedure

The following steps are required for any requesting agency interested in gaining talkgroup access to a talkgroup not owned by them.

- All talkgroups outside the owning agency must have a Letter of Authorization from the owning agency in order to program talkgroups into their radios or devices.
- Agencies seeking to have their devices programmed with another agency's internal (or owned) talkgroups shall present evidence of authorization to radio programming staff.
- The Letters of Authorization must be kept with the System Administrator and/or Subsystem Administrator who is responsible for the system programming for the using agency.

6. Management

SIRN Administrator shall maintain copies of all agency Letters of Authorization which shall be made available to the SIEC as needed.