



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



Document Section	1 – Interoperability Standards	Status: SIEC Sub Committee Approval Date: 2/28/2022 SIEC Approval: Date: 2/28/2022
State Standard Number	1.18.0	
Standard Title	Audible Alert Tones	
Date Established	2/28/2022	
Replaces Document Dated	NA	
Date Revised/Reviewed	2/28/2022	

1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this Standard is to establish procedures for alert tone usage on shared SIRN resources such as the statewide and regional talkgroups.

2. Technical Background

Capabilities

The SIRN platform can support various audible alert tones which can be associated with different types of voice announcements and incidents. Alert tones can be configured to precede voice transmissions over the shared statewide and regional interoperable talkgroups.

Constraints

There are a limited number of unique tones available for use on the SIRN Platform; therefore, consensus on tone usage for various announcements is necessary.

3. Operational Context

Alert tones prior to a voice transmission can notify first responders of pertinent or vital information that is about to be announced by the PSAP.

Alert tones can be an essential method of communicating vital information to in-field radio users or other dispatch personnel. However, if alert tones are overused, they may lose their meaning with public safety personnel. Alert tones should, therefore, be used judiciously and reserved for communicating the most critical life safety situations.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard

Excessive use of alert tones on broadcasts is prohibited.

Use of alert tones on statewide and regional interoperable talkgroups must be consensus-based at least on a regional basis.

Some types of broadcasts can be preceded with steady alert tones of approximately 1,000 Hz lasting 2-3 seconds include but are not limited to:





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- Amber Alerts
- Hazard to in-field personnel or Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) such as:
 - Evacuation alert
 - Tornado Emergency – as issued by National Weather Service
 - Wrong way driver
 - Responder in need of assistance
- Active assailant
- Pursuit
- Final radio call for line of duty death

Except under extreme circumstances, the following broadcast types should not be preceded with an alert tone include:

- Informational
- “Make your own case” broadcasts
- Distracted Driver
- Routine driving complaint

5. Recommended Procedure

At the time of the announcement, the dispatcher should ensure the appropriate tone precedes the transmission. The dispatcher shall ensure the tone has finished before speaking.

6. Management

The SIRN Operations Working Group is responsible for reviewing this Standard and developing training modules for users as required.