

Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

Policy # 01-2003	Adopted: 02-05-03	Approved by:
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OFFICIAL POLICY: PPRCN TALKGROUPS

DATE: January 31, 2003

PURPOSE: To disseminate talkgroup development, use, and assignment among system agencies.

SCOPE: All User Agencies

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A trunked radio system can contain many agencies on the same system. Instead of owning their own channels, all of these agencies share common channels. The provision, which allows several agencies to co-exist on the same channels, is the designation of talkgroups, which are logical channels. This provision allows several agencies to share the same channels without interfering with one another. System talkgroups can consist of several types, which include, common talkgroups, such as inter-agency talkgroups, special purpose, for signaling and other purposes, individual agency, and restricted for some special provision, such as encrypted talkgroups.

PROCEDURE:

Each trunked radio system has a maximum of 4000 talkgroups available. While it is doubtful that most systems would ever approach this limit, they must still be managed. For this reason, assignment of talkgroups must be accomplished under control of the system management. The System Manager shall be responsible for managing existing and assigning new talkgroups. Agencies requesting new talkgroups, or changing or deleting existing talkgroups may do so through the provision of the Network Change Request (NCR) form.

Types of talkgroups:

Inter-agency [(See Policy #05-2000 Inter-agency Talkgroup Operations (C-Switch))]
Inter-agency talkgroups are established for the purpose of providing a common, or shared, talkgroup, which may be used by all agencies on the system. The purpose would be for joint agency operations or when more than one agency on the system needs to operate with another agency on the system. Inter-agency talkgroups are assigned in pairs, a command talkgroup, and a tactical talkgroup. Other inter-agency talkgroups may also be used when the size of the incident dictates.

Examples: BLUE.CMD.CO2 (Command) and, BLUE.OPS.CO3 (tactical), RUBY.CMD.CO4 and GREY.CMD.CO6, BROWN.CO8 and ORANGE..CO9

Geographical

Similar to inter-agency in that these are also shared talkgroups, but more closely defined to be used in a particular geographic region.

Examples: South, North, East, etc.

Departmental

Departmental talkgroups are those, that are assigned to an individual agency for the purpose of that agency conducting its business on the system. Regardless of their use by the agency, these talkgroups remain within the control of the individual agency to which they are assigned. If an agency chooses, a written request may be passed through the System Manager to share the talkgroup with one or more agencies. No agency talkgroup regardless of use will be permitted in another agencies radio without written approval from the owning agency CEO, or his designee.

Examples: CSFD.PRIMARY, EPSO-01, EP.FAL, EP.CHFD, etc.

Special - Signaling

Special talkgroups may be established for the purposes of accomplishing signaling, or control.

Example: KNOX

Restricted: - Encrypted

Restricted talkgroups are those talkgroups used for specific limited purposes by either a single agency or multiple agencies. Because of the sensitive nature of the traffic on the talkgroup are generally encrypted. Permission must be obtained from the agency CEO, or his designee, to permit another agency to have either the talkgroup or the encryption decoding capability if used.

Examples: VNI-5.B8, TEU3.B4

Talkgroup Identifiers:

All talkgroups must have unique non-conflicting identifiers regardless of type, use or ownership. One agency's talkgroup cannot bear the same identifier as another talkgroup. Since many agencies have comparable needs in talkgroup purpose and therefore naming. It is System policy that an agency pre-identifier be employed in the naming convention.

Note: Actual displayed talkgroup names on radios may differ, due to limited characters available.

Examples: EPS0-O1, CSFD.PRI1