

Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

Policy # 04-2000	Adopted: December 6, 2000	Approved by:
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OFFICIAL POLICY - System Scanning by User Agencies

DATE: November 28, 2000

PURPOSE: To provide guidance in the use of and request for scanning by users of the 800 MHz Trunked Radio System installed, operated by the Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network (PPRCN).

SCOPE: All personnel and agencies operating radios on the PPRCN Network

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Scanning is a radio feature that allows the listener to be alerted to, and receive radio transmissions from more than one operating channel. While conventional radio systems provide scanning passively to monitor multiple radio frequencies, scanning on a Trunked Radio System utilizes radio network resources. Every scanning user is placed into the talkgroups they are scanning, thereby adding an increased load on the system.

BACKGROUND:

Many of the agencies that will be utilizing the PPRCN Trunked Radio System currently operate radios on conventional UHF and VHF single channel radio networks that easily facilitate the monitoring of many radio frequencies through a feature known as scanning. Scanning is a feature that allows the listener to be alerted to, and receive radio transmissions from more than one frequency. While generally maintaining the transmit side of their portable or mobile radio on a selected specific operational frequency. Since these conventional radio single channel networks do not utilize Trunking functionality to maximize frequency conservation, they require or utilize no assets of the network to monitor multiple frequencies or conversations.

Policy:

In the PPRCN Network, scanning will obligate network assets. Because of this, scanning will have to be maintained at a minimum to ensure there are adequate network assets at all sites to allow the system to provide service to all users on all talkgroups. User agencies requesting scanning are required to request in writing, through the PPRCN System Manager, scanning authorization, for each individual radio requiring scanning in their agency.

The System Manager will provide a recommendation based upon system utilization data prior to deciding on scanning requests

Priority Scan is authorized only with designated priority channels. Scan lists are preset in the field radios as part of the initial programming or follow-on programming. Users will not be allowed to build their own scan lists. Users will be allowed to scan up to, but no more than, four (4) talkgroups. The PPRCN System Manager will maintain documentation of all scan lists by User Group and programmed radio.

Upon initialization of the system through the first year of System operation, scanning requests will be limited to Division Commanders (For Police Agencies), Battalion or Department Chiefs (For Fire Agencies), Division Supervisors (For Public Service Agencies). Following the first year of System operation, System usage will be analyzed and adjustments may be made.

The System Manager is responsible for tracking and reporting on compliance to the PPRCN Board with this policy.