

# Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

<b>Policy # 01-2008</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> <i>MAY 7, 2008</i>	<b>Approved by:</b> <i>J. Moore</i>
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*C. M. Moore For Sheriff  
MARKETA*

**Official Policy**      **Interagency Talkgroup (C-Zone) Policy**  
Supersedes [updates] policy number 02-2007 dated September 5, 2007

**DATE:**                      May 7, 2008

**PURPOSE:**                To require that all PPRCN participants' radios have pre-programmed access capability to a uniform set of trunked and conventional network resources. This enables the instant configuration of communications capabilities to support multiple incident command structures and interagency operations.

**SCOPE:**                      This policy applies to all PPRCN Participant agencies and to their radios authorized to access the PPRCN system.

**Discussion:** The PPRCN system is designed to enable totally interoperable radio resources among participants. By requiring a common set of sixteen talkgroups to be programmed into all PPRCN user radios, interoperability is available on demand. This group of talkgroups is known as the "C-Zone" interagency group. When possible, events among different agencies should employ C-Zone resources. Regular C-Zone familiarity and practiced usage by all users should serve to foster effective communications when needed most during larger and more complex events.

**Events Using C-Zone Resources:** The interagency talkgroups are typically used for:

- ◆ Mutual aid fire operations.
- ◆ Severe weather operations.
- ◆ Operations between or among different disciplines or jurisdictions.
- ◆ Large events requiring the coordination of activities among different agency types.
- ◆ Major emergencies involving numerous agencies and multiple incidents.

Responders requesting interagency C-Zone talkgroup resources may include incident commanders functioning within formal ICS command structures or others as needed for response or for planned events. Proposed usage of C-Zone resources is initiated through a request to a dispatch center.

**Primary C-Zone Resource Assignment:** The first of these talkgroups, (EPSO.RED), is found in the C-1 position. EPSO.RED is monitored 24 x 7 by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office dispatch center. This talkgroup provides primary contact for any PPRCN system user in need of one or more interagency talkgroup assignments to support interagency operations.

**Secondary C-Zone Resource Assignment:** The Colorado Springs Fire Department dispatch talkgroup (CSFD.FIRE1), found in the C-16 position, and the Colorado Springs Utilities dispatch talkgroup (CSU.DISP), found in the C-15 position, may assist the El Paso Sheriff's Office in assigning and tracking C-Zone resources when EPSO.RED is either unavailable, or excessively busy and requests temporary support.

**Operational Details:** Specific protocols, policies and details of interagency talkgroup operations are contained in the “C-Zone Operational Procedures” created and maintained by the PPRCN Users Council.

**Cooperation and Interaction:** Since incidents may require support from other PPRCN Stakeholder dispatch facilities, all dispatch centers shall remain aware of current C-Zone resource assignments, communicating such assignments on at least the Inter-dispatch Intercom talkgroup. All Stakeholder dispatch operations shall also provide timely information to the personnel they regularly dispatch, to assist these users with finding and joining the correct C-Zone resources during an event.

**Dispatch Responsibilities:** Dispatchers are responsible for:

- 1) assuring C-Zone resource availability prior to assignment of such resources
- 2) authorizing the assignment and mapping of appropriate talkgroups to specific events
- 3) tracking the anticipated use of each individual resource the dispatcher has assigned
- 4) logging requestors and their roles in the event, their contact information, and their agencies
- 5) obtaining additional relevant information about the requested talkgroup resource usage, and
- 6) disseminating current and change information to other dispatch centers

**Requestor Responsibilities:** Requestors are responsible to dispatchers for:

- 1) specifying the beginning and estimated ending times for anticipated usage
- 2) describing the incident or event for which each talkgroup resource is requested
- 3) describing the general functionality of the talkgroups needed for the requested period
- 4) providing both immediate and ongoing contact information about the requestor
- 5) re-forecasting ending time of event within thirty minutes of a previously given ending time, and
- 6) notifying dispatch upon cessation of need.

<i>SWITCH POSITION</i>	<i>USER RADIO DISPLAY</i>	<i>NOTES</i>
C-1	EPSO.RED	El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch
C-2	C2	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-3	C3	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-4	C4	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-5	C5	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-6	C6	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-7	C7	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-8	C8	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-9	C9	Assigned by Dispatch based on a request for a talkgroup for an event or incident
C-10	8CALL90	A Dispatch-monitored resource for repeating radio transmissions
C-11	8TAC91	Conventional non-PPRCN resource, with talk-around simplex radio capability
C-12	8TAC92	Conventional non-PPRCN resource, with talk-around simplex radio capability
C-13	8TAC93	Conventional non-PPRCN resource, with talk-around simplex radio capability
C-14	8TAC94	Conventional non-PPRCN resource, with talk-around simplex radio capability
C-15	CSU.DISP	Colorado Springs Utilities Dispatch
C-16	CSFD.FIRE1	Colorado Springs Fire Department Primary Dispatch