



Title:	P25 Interoperability Policies & Procedures	SOP No:	ITS-RADIO-013
Revision:	2.1	Effective Date:	March 28, 2022
Owner:	Manager Wireless Communications	Department:	IT Solutions

## Interoperability Policies & Procedures

### 1 Purpose

Published interoperability policies and procedures are necessary to preserve the continuity of mission critical communications during system failures, regional disasters and events that require interagency coordination and upgrades or maintenance of the public safety radio system that provides communications for first responders across much of North Central Texas.

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to internal and external agencies that operate on the Radio System network for primary or secondary radio communications.

### 3 References

[Fort Worth Radio Interoperable Communications Plan](#)

### 4 Conditions for Exemption

Exceptions to the policy must be approved by the Senior Manager over Wireless Communications.

### 5 Justification

Implementing interoperability guidelines for internal and external agencies on the Radio System network ensures that all end users understand standard operating procedures on the system in various scenarios. The goal is to reduce interrupted communications and optimize interoperability amongst all users on the network.

### 6 Interoperability Guidelines

The [Fort Worth Radio Interoperable Communications Plan](#) (referred to as the “interoperability plan”) outlines standard operating procedures for interoperability on the Radio System. It is periodically reviewed and updated. The interoperability plan describes interoperability talkgroups, channel designations, priority and rules of usage, activation and deactivation procedures, on-scene incident command, training, testing as well as interim interoperability during migration and access to analog talk groups. The interoperability plan requires



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participating agencies to sign an ILA with the CFW and self-govern based on the guidelines established in the document.

### **6.1 CFW Interoperability Talkgroups**

The interoperability plan designates 50 CFW interoperability talkgroups for inter-agency command and tactical level coordination allowing agencies to communicate, coordinate and effectively respond in emergency incident situations. Agencies must monitor the interoperability talkgroups. The interoperability plan specifically designates priority levels for communication and rules of use.

### **6.2 Regional Interoperability**

The interoperability plan also describes the use of the CONNCT 700MHz overlay system which allows all equipped subscribers on the FWRRS network access to Tarrant and Denton county via knob turn, and Collin and Dallas Counties via manual roaming.

### **6.3 NPSPAC Mutual Aid Talk Groups**

As also described in the interoperability plan and the statewide interoperability channel plan, mutual aid channels are available for interoperable communications in 800Mhz and 700Mhz.

### **6.4 Dallas P25 ISSI**

As also documented in the interoperability plan, the P25 ISSI intersystem connection between the CFW and Dallas system allows manual roaming and voice level communications between users when in coverage capture of one of these systems. Roaming subscribers maintain console connectivity to their home systems via the ISSI talkgroups. The subscribers must be programmed with ISSI talkgroups to take advantage of this feature.

### **6.5 Use of Agency-Specific Talkgroups**

Upon mutual agreement, agencies may share talkgroups with other agencies. However, a written letter of authorization is required to gain access to another specific agency's talkgroups for interoperability purposes.



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If an agency programs another agency's talkgroups without authorization, the following steps will occur:

1. The owner of the talkgroups will request removal of those talkgroups from the offending agency's radios within a reasonable period.
2. If the offending agency takes no action, a written request for removal by a specified date will be submitted to the agency by the talkgroup owner. The written request should be sent via certified mail to the offending agency's communications/dispatch manager with a copy to an executive-level position such as a police or fire chief or assistant chief. The request must include notification that radio IDs of the offending agency could be deactivated if the unauthorized talkgroups are not removed by the specified date.
3. If the offending agency takes no action, the owner of the talkgroup will notify in writing or via email the CFW Wireless Communications Manager who will deactivate the appropriate radio IDs. The Wireless Communications Manager must provide at least one hour's notice via telephone to the offending agency's communications/dispatch manager prior to deactivating radio IDs.
4. The offending agency's IDs will be reactivated only after removal of the unauthorized talkgroups from its radios' programming or upon receipt of authorization from the owning agency.

## **6.6 Customer Specific Interoperability**

Aside from interoperability talkgroups and system level interoperable communications, specific customers implement specific guidelines for interoperability.

## **7 Supporting Documentation**

Each external agency's specific executed ILA Agreement with the City of Fort Worth.



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### ***Version Control***

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>
1.0	8/1/2014	Original version	Abinta Khan
2.0	1/5/2015	Added sanctions for unauthorized use of agency talkgroups	Alan Girton
2.1	3/28/2022	Changed Radio Services to Wireless Communications, FW P25 Radio System to Fort Worth Regional Radio System, Document formatting	Larry Crockett