Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS)
Standards, Protocols, Procedures

ISICS Standard:	Standard #:	1.5.2
~~Use of Statewide and/or Regional Interoperability Talkgroups –~~ Air<u>craft</u> ~~Ambulance~~ <mark>Emergency</mark> _Landing Zone Coordination	Date Adopted:	08/09/2018
	Date Reviewed:	
	Version:	<u>2.0</u>

1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to specify the use of the ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups <u>and channels</u> for establishing and maintaining air<u>craft</u> ~~ambulance emergency~~ landing zones.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

  The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) has established a standard for use of the ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups in ISICS Standard 1.5.0 – ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups. This standard encourages interoperable communications among first responders and establishes common ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups to facilitate interoperability.

  <u>700 MHz Nationwide Air-Ground Channels have been licensed for air-ground communications as specified in ISICS Policy 2021-01.0. These channels are listed in ISICS Procedure Statement ICS-217A.</u>

- **Constraints**

  Experience has shown that agencies have used many different processes in the past. Through best practices this standard strives for consistency among agencies that utilize ISICS.

3. Operational Context

Caution should be utilized because ~~Communications with aircraft on a trunked network can sometimes be problematic if the aircraft radio does not roam to an appropriate site or if there are other circumstances~~ many circumstances may affect~~ing~~ air-to-ground communications. This standard works to facilitate successful air-to-ground communications in ~~emergency~~ landing zones.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

Coordination regarding talkgroup usage is vital to ensure successful communications. A public safety communication center, in-field public safety personnel or incident commander should be in contact with any aircraft and assign them an appropriate ISICS Regional or Statewide Interoperable talkgroup if possible.

If the aircraft does not have an ISICS connected radio, use of channels outlined in the ISICSB Procedure Statement - ICS-217A is recommended. When utilizing those channels listed in the ICS-217A standard protocol is that 7AG88D will be utilized as the preferred channel for landing zone coordination. The rest of the air to ground channels shall be utilized on a first come, first serve basis. Those channels can then be patched into ISICS statewide and/or regional talkgroups as needed, and these channels should be coordinated on ISICS StatusBoard.

5. Recommended Procedure

It is imperative to allow for communication between the responding aircraft and the designated person (law enforcement, fire personnel, first responder, etc.) on the ground that will be coordinating the landing zone (LZ) consistent with ICS structures. The exact location of the LZ, any hazards, wind direction, and any other pertinent information needs to be communicated to the aircraft to allow for a safe scene landing. If it becomes necessary to abort the landing, the individual on the ground will need to be able to quickly communicate this information to the aircraft.

For Aircraft that are equipped with ISICS radios:

If the aircraft and personnel on scene coordinating the landing both have ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups, they will use the ISICS statewide or regional interoperability TAC ~~that has been~~ assigned to them by the appropriate, controlling public safety communication center, in-field public safety personnel, or incident commander.

In the event of a technical constraint, the incident may be switched over to other talkgroups or channels as appropriate.

For Aircraft that are NOT equipped with ISICS radios:

If the aircraft does not have ISICS radios, but personnel on scene coordinating the ISICS statewide and regional interoperability and patch the responding air ambulance operating to an appropriate channel outlined in the ISICSB ICS-217A and per ISICS policy 2021-01.O.

Note: An announcement on the patched resources will be made at the time of the patch origin AND just prior to the patch removal.

Interoperability
ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Use of Statewide and/or Regional Interoperability Talkgroups – Air Ambulance Emergency Landing Zone Coordination
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Order of Use of ISICS statewide and regional interoperability Talkgroups (per ISICS Standard 1.5.0):

The use of ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups for PREPLANNED NON-EMERGENCY interoperability events involving LZ coordination should use the appropriate regional interoperability talkgroups in descending order, e.g. in Region 3: IA R3 TAC 36, IA R3 TAC 35, IA R3TAC 34 etc., in that order. ISICS users should adhere to ISICS Standard 1.7.0 – Minimum Programming Requirements. For users who do not have the full complement of ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups programmed in their radios, these non-emergency LZ events should be assigned the "highest" number ISICS statewide and regional interoperability first.

The use of ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups for UNPLANNED EMERGENCY incidents involving LZ coordination should use the appropriate available ISICS statewide and/or regional interoperability in ascending order, e.g. in Region 1: IA R1 TAC 12, IA R1 TAC 13, IA R1 TAC 14, etc.

Utilization of StatusBoard per ISICS Standard 1.17.0 – StatusBoard will help ensure resource availability before assignment.

6. Management

Nothing in this standard shall be construed as a limitation of use of the ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups for incidents other than aircraft ambulance emergency landing zone coordination.

Nothing in this standard shall be construed as a limitation of use of any appropriately assigned conventional resource for an aircraft ambulance emergency landing zone coordination by non-ISICS users.

For Management, see ISICS Standard 1.5.0 (*ISICS Regional & Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups*) for additional information.