Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Name:	Policy#:	ISICS 2021-3.U
Minimum Interoperable Radio Channels and Nomenclature	Date Adopted:	08/12/2021
	Date Reviewed:	10/15/2026
	Version:	1.1

Purpose or Objective

To document minimum interoperable radio channel programming for public safety radios in Iowa to help ensure interoperable communications function properly.

Background

Incident Command System (ICS) forms are standard templates used by emergency responders to manage incidents, document actions, and build Incident Action Plans (IAPs). The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) publishes the ISICSB ICS 217A documenting minimum interoperable radio channels and nomenclature resource availability.

ISICSB Policy

Public safety radios shall be programmed to include the channels as listed in the most current version of the ISICSB ICS 217A based on Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and radio frequency band and channel capacity capabilities for the agency.

The ISICSB ICS 217A can be found on the ISICSB website under the resources tab. ISICSB ICS 217A versions will be represented by the date of adoption.

This policy establishes the ISICSB ICS 217A document as the authoritative source for programming of conventional interoperable communication resources. Other documentation or sources, such as the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) should be consulted in the event of a channel not being listed in the ISICSB ICS 217A. Programming practices should be consistent with those listed in the ISICISB ICS 217A.

This Iowa statewide minimum interoperability channel plan will improve multi-agency interoperability for communication by Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems at times of a major incident and/or need.

The following radio channel names changed as of January 1, 2014, to the new nomenclature per Association of Public Safety Communications Officials/National Public Safety Telecommunications

Council (APCO/NPSTAC) 1.104.2—2015 – Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels:

Frequency	Old Name [1]	New Name
154.2800 MHz	State Fire Aid, Fire Mutual Aid, Fire Aid, Aid	VFIRE21
155.4750 MHz	Law Aid, Mutual Aid Law, LE Aid, Aid	VLAW31
155.3400 MHz	State EMS, EMS Mutual Aid, EMS Aid, Aid	VMED28

To maintain consistency with current capabilities, agencies should discontinue use of old names of these channels and begin using the updated name.

Users of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) shall also have the minimum interoperable talkgroups referenced in ISICS Standards.

[1] List of Old Names may not be all inclusive