



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

ISICS Standard: Statewide Pursuit Communications	Standard #:	1.4.0
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	Date Reviewed:	4/10/2025
	Version:	2.0

1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to establish the statewide interoperable guidelines and procedures for pursuit communications. For the purpose of this standard, “officer” refers to a peace officer as defined in Iowa Code 2020, Section 801.4.

2. Technical Background

• Capabilities

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) has established standards for use of the statewide interoperability talkgroups. The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) is configured to allow for statewide, wide-area interoperable communications.

• Constraints

Experience has shown that all agencies have used many different processes in the past. This standard strives for statewide consistency among all law enforcement agencies. Consistent communications guidelines among agencies during dynamic events, such as pursuits, which can involve multiple agencies and can span multiple jurisdictions are essential for the safety of officers and the general public.

Since a patch will not extend the coverage area of their home system, agency personnel need to have awareness of the coverage area of their home system if patches are used during a pursuit.

3. Operational Context

Pursuits are dynamic in nature and it is imperative to have a simplified communication strategy for mission success. It is also critical to alert near-by personnel of the potentially approaching pursuit.

It is understood that the officer initiating the pursuit may have limited ability to safely change the radio to a different channel/talkgroup. Therefore, it can be desirable and advantageous for the initially pursuing officer to be patched into a statewide tactical (TAC) talkgroup. Agencies initiating a pursuit have first rights to a patch into the statewide TAC being used for the pursuit. However, this does not preclude an agency from specifying that their officers will change directly to the statewide TAC being used for the pursuit if a patch will not be used. Switching in-field radios directly to a statewide TAC removes any geographic limitations of the agency's home system and local operational talkgroup coverage and is recommended when possible.

Other officers coming to assist should have time to safely change their radios to the statewide TAC used for the pursuit.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

All statewide interoperability talkgroups are required for public safety communication centers with full connectivity to ISICS, and statewide interoperability talkgroups are required for public safety communication centers using control stations to integrate with ISICS in a manner consistent with ISICS Standard 1.7.0 – Minimum Programming Requirements.

The agency that begins the pursuit has the first opportunity and right to patch into a statewide TAC. Any patches made by an agency that initiated a pursuit belong to the agency that initiated the pursuit and the patch. An agency may also opt not to patch into the statewide TAC being used for the pursuit and may opt instead to have their officers change immediately to a statewide TAC being used for the pursuit.

Officers assisting with the pursuit should change their radios to the statewide TAC being used for the pursuit. In some cases, an assisting agency may need to be patched into the pursuit if their subscriber radios are incapable of accessing the ISICS statewide interoperable TACs. This should generally only be done if there are few or no other patches currently active to preserve audio quality. For situations in which the in-field radios are incapable of accessing the ISICS statewide TAC being used for the pursuit, it may be preferable for the dispatcher to relay the pursuit on the local law channel(s)/talkgroup(s).

If the initial patch(es) are no longer needed or operationally effective, the patch(es) should be removed/broken/torn down. This would allow another agency to patch into the pursuit if needed.

In the interest of officer safety, agencies participating in the pursuit should make efforts to ensure that non-pursuit related traffic does not go through the patch if one is used.

At the conclusion of the pursuit, all patches must be removed/broken/torn down.

5. Recommended Procedure

- Whenever a pursuit is initiated, the pursuing agency's public safety answering point (PSAP) will assign the first available statewide interoperable TAC talkgroup in Table 1, and reserve it on StatusBoard. If the dispatcher is unable to make the StatusBoard reservation, another communication center with StatusBoard access may make the reservation on their behalf.

STATEWIDE TG				
Phantom TGID	Alias	Comment	Region	Talkgroup
Statewide				
2	IATAC2	Iowa Statewide Tactical 2	Statewide	Tactical
3	IATAC3	Iowa Statewide Tactical 3	Statewide	Tactical
4	IATAC4	Iowa Statewide Tactical 4	Statewide	Tactical
5	IATAC5	Iowa Statewide Tactical 5	Statewide	Tactical
6	IATAC6	Iowa Statewide Tactical 6	Statewide	Tactical

Table 1. List of statewide TAC talkgroups for pursuits.

- An announcement of the pursuit, including its location and direction of travel, should be made over the regional calling (CALL) talkgroup consistent with ISICS Standard 1.12.0 - Announcements. In some instances, an additional announcement may be necessary if the pursuit crosses into a different region. If the dispatcher is unable to make the additional announcement on the adjacent regional CALL talkgroup, another communication center may make the announcement for them.
- The dispatcher should notify the pursuing officer of which statewide TAC will be used for the pursuit. When the initiating officer's current operable channel/talkgroup is patched to the assigned available statewide TAC talk group, the dispatcher will inform the officer of the patch. Lower priority, non-pursuit related traffic should be moved to another local channel/talkgroup or suspended to avoid interrupting or interfering with the higher priority pursuit transmissions.
- It is recommended that agencies that have the statewide interoperable TAC talkgroups in their mobile and/or portable subscriber radios should change directly to the statewide interoperable TAC talkgroup used for the pursuit when safe to do so.
- The pursuing agency's dispatcher may perform the patch and/or multi-select function so all audio is heard on the talkgroups as needed when a patch is necessary.
- If a patch is used, and the pursuit goes beyond the coverage area of the initially pursuing officer's home system, one of the following options should be considered within agency plans since the audio quality with the initially pursuing officer will decline and/or the officer will leave the coverage area of the home system:
 - The initially pursuing officer backs off the pursuit and either switches to the statewide TAC used for the pursuit or stops pursuing.
 - The initiating PSAP coordinates with an PSAP closest to the pursuit to hand off control of the pursuit and patch into other locally available resources. In this

instance, the initially pursuing officer will have to change to the statewide TAC used for the pursuit or that other resource is it is available to them in their radio.

6. Management

The ISICSB Training and Outreach Committee will ensure that a training module is created for this ISICS Standard. The Operations Committee shall review this standard based on ISICS Policy 2023-02.G – Policy and Standard Adoptions, Review, and Revision, and as deemed necessary to ensure efficacy.