



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

<b>ISICS Standard:</b>  Use of Statewide and/or Regional Interoperability Talkgroups – Air Ambulance Emergency Landing Zone Coordination	<b>Standard #:</b>	1.5.2
	Date Adopted:	08/09/2018
	Date Reviewed:	
	Version:	

**1. Purpose or Objective**

The purpose of this standard is to specify the use of the ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups for establishing and maintaining air 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](#). This standard encourages interoperable communications among first responders and establishes common ISICS statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups to facilitate interoperability.

• **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**

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 affecting air-to-ground communication. 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 ICS-217A](#) is recommended. Those channels can then be patched into ISICS statewide and/or regional talkgroups as needed.

#### **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 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](#).

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

##### **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. IA TAC 36, IA TAC 35, IA TAC 34 etc., in that order. 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 ISICS statewide and/or regional interoperability in ascending order, e.g. IA TAC 12, IA TAC 13, IA TAC 14, etc.

## **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 air 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 air 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.