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

ISICS Standard:	Standard #:	1.5.4
Sub-Regional Interoperability Talkgroups	Date Adopted:	02/10/2022
	Date Reviewed:	12/4/2024
	Version:	1.0

1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to establish guidelines and procedures for establishing sub-regional interoperability talkgroups.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

  The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) has established standards for use of the regional and statewide interoperability talkgroups.

- **Constraints**

  There are a finite number of available resources and available talkgroups throughout the regional and statewide interoperable talkgroup zones. Any sub-regional talkgroups shall adhere to ISICSB standards and/or policies.

3. Operational Context

There may be areas of the State of Iowa with a large number of users and/or agencies confined geographically in such a way that daily interoperability spans various levels of government, disciplines, and disparate systems in which span of control and frequency of events requires the use of additional resources.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

To establish a sub-regional interoperability talkgroup zone, there must be criterion for assessment of the need. Requests shall be submitted in writing to the ISICSB for evaluation at the committee level in which several aspects are thoroughly investigated.

5. Recommended Procedure

1. Following consultation with their RIC(s), agencies submit a formal, written request to the ISICSB. The ISICSB Chair or Vice Chair will assign the request to committees once a point of contact or subsystem administrator has been established by the requesting group. The request shall include:
   - The requested sites for access,
   - The requested talkgroups — number, unique name to include use designation (CALL, FIRE, LAW, MED, TAC, etc.) see standard 3.2.0;
   - Expected frequency of use with specific examples of past or future events in which the talkgroups would have been used. Sample and/or draft ICS-205s may be requested by the ISICSB or committees;
   - The applying agency will verify to the ISICSB that they have a means to record any sub-regional talkgroups;
   - The number of public safety and public service agencies within its service area that would be using the sub-regional talkgroups;
2. The User Group Committee (UGC) will be tasked with system loading analysis. This must be in consultation with the manufacturer of the system and the Technology Committee (TC).
3. The Operations Committee (OC) will conduct an operational analysis that includes:
   - the use cases of the talkgroups and frequency of interoperable incidents among the agencies—local, county, state, federal.
   - the number of existing regions and sub-regions dissecting the service area.
   - the number of Public Safety Communications Centers in the area.
4. A joint meeting among the OC, TC and UGC members shall be conducted to review each committee's findings.
   - Committee members that represent the agency making the request shall recuse themselves from any formal voting regarding a decision.
5. The OC, TC and UGC must approve the sub-regional talkgroups. The OC, TC or UGC may make the recommendation whether to:
   - Add the subregion to the ISICSB Interoperability fleetmap (regional and statewide interoperability talkgroups). This will require an agreement between the agencies requesting the sub-regional talkgroups and the ISICSB; OR
   - Designate the proposed talkgroups as a shared local array of talkgroups on the local fleetmap;
6. The Governance Committee verifies that any necessary polices and/or standards governing the use of the sub-regional talkgroups have been created.

6. Management

The ISICSB System Administrator and/or the appropriate agency points of contact or subsystem administrator is responsible for the creation, maintenance, and use of the talkgroups based on the option chosen in Section 5, Part 5. Any necessary training materials shall be developed by the agency points of contact or subsystem administrator requesting the talkgroups.