



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

Standard Name:	<b>Public Safety Communication Center (PSCC) Interoperability</b>		Date Created:	<b>06-07-2018</b>	
Standard Policy #	<b>1.13.0</b>	Section Title:	<b>Interoperability Standards</b>	Status	<b>Approved</b>
Approval Authority:	<b>ISICSB</b>	Adopted:	<b>1/10/19</b>	Reviewed:	<b>1/10/19</b>

**1. Purpose or Objective**

The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum guidelines for development of interoperability standards enabling Public Safety Communication Centers (PSCCs) throughout the state to communicate with each other. PSCCs include Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that receive and dispose 9-1-1 calls and any other dispatching center that dispatches public safety and/or public service personnel using a radio system.

**2. Technical Background**

• **Capabilities**

The statewide implementation of the ISICS Platform provides the opportunity to establish a uniform approach to using the ISICS Platform for communicating with PSCCs across the state. For agencies that are full participants on the ISICS Platform, PSCCs generally have access to multiple talkgroups, including statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups.

An ISICS radio control station was made available to PSAPs through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), establishing a uniform capability to communicate with participating and non-participating PSCCs. Under the grant agreement, one ISICS radio control station was provided for the purpose establishing basic interoperable communications.

• **Constraints**

The ISICS radio control stations used to connect to the ISICS Platform are limited to one talkgroup for active monitoring (transmit/receive) for each radio control station. These control stations may

have scanning functionality enabled, but that functionality poses a risk of missing traffic or interfering with a patch or other unintended consequences depending on how they are installed.

*NOTE: With over one hundred PSAPs in Iowa, it is not practical to require users (regional, state, and transient local) to program separate county talkgroups for each individual county PSAP in the state.*

### **3. Operational Context**

A consistent approach to the use of the ISICS radio control stations is required to ensure consistent interoperability with PSCCs throughout the state. This approach must be applied to all user levels to be effective.

### **4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard**

Minimum programming requirements in [ISICS Standard 1.7.0](#) Minimum Programming Requirements shall be adhered to. The appropriate regional calling talkgroup shall be monitored per ISICS Standard 1.12.0 Announcements. If a PSAP needs to communicate with another PSAP, they may utilize the appropriate regional calling talkgroup.

### **5. Recommended Procedure**

Minimum programming requirements in ISICS State Standard 1.7.0 shall be adhered to. The appropriate regional calling talkgroup shall be monitored per ISICS State Standard 1.12.0 Announcements. If a PSAP needs to communicate with another PSAP, they may use the appropriate regional calling talkgroup. Communications should be concise so that resource will be available for other agencies.

### **6. Management**

The Training and Exercise Committee shall develop a module for users regarding this standard. The ISICSB Operations Committee shall review this standard on an as-needed basis or at a minimum annually to ensure effectiveness.