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

Standard Name:	**Talkgroup Site Access and Roaming**		Date Created:		**05-08-2018**	
Standard Policy #	**3.11.0**	**Section Title:**	**Configuration and Allocation**		Status	**APPROVED**
Approval Authority:	**ISICSB**		Adopted:	**7/12/18**	Reviewed:	7/12/18

1. Purpose or Objective

This standard establishes a policy for system and subscriber unit programming to provide ISICS users with wide area access, as needed, while minimizing roaming and preventing unnecessary system loading.

2. Technical Background

Capabilities

The ISICS platform and subscriber radios may be programmed to allow a talkgroup or radio to affiliate with all ISICS repeater sites and to roam between them or to restrict a talkgroup or radio from specific repeater sites.

Constraints

Each ISICS repeater site has a limited number of channels able to provide talk paths available to carry radio transmissions. If care is not taken to program talkgroups and radios to be allowed only on certain sites or prefer certain sites, radio traffic could unnecessarily overburden a site preventing some radio messages from being sent.

With respect to operable talkgroup site access, this standard only applies to state-owned tower sites. Local Sub-System Administrators who desire operable talkgroup access to other local sub-systems need to complete a Memorandum of Agreement between Sub-System Administrators/Owners.

Interoperable talkgroups shall be allowed access to local Sub-Systems.

3. Operational Context

Radio users may not have control over where their public safety responsibilities take them nor do they have the ability to control to which repeater sites their radios affiliate. Site affiliation permission must be proactively managed by sound system and radio programming guidelines. Not all scenarios can be defined by standard so system administrators should communally develop and share best practices.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard

Site Access Profiles define talkgroup access to ISICS repeater sites. They serve as the preferred tool for managing repeater site access. The following Site Access Profiles are established:

- In-County/Geopolitical Subdivision Operations: Includes all sites within a county or geopolitical subdivision and may include sites outside of the physical boundaries of the county or geopolitical subdivision but engineered to serve the county or geopolitical subdivision.
- Border (aka Adjacent Site): Includes all sites included in the In-County/Geopolitical Subdivision Operations profile plus one ring of adjacent repeater sites encircling the In-County/Geopolitical Subdivision Operations profile.
- Regional Sites: Includes all sites within a Homeland Security Region plus one ring of sites encircling the Regional Sites profile.
- Statewide Sites: Includes all ISICS sites.
- Custom Sites: Certain entities with atypical geographic boundaries may require a custom Site Access Profile. These profiles must be approved by the impacted site's owner and the Operations Committee.
- Requested Site: profiles will always broadcast specified radio traffic regardless of site affiliation with the repeater site. Example: A rural county relies on another county's repeater sites for coverage in a border area and car-to-car traffic (utilizing an In-County Operations profile) is not carried through that neighboring county's repeater. Requested Site profiles must be approved and documented by the neighboring site's owner and the Operations Committee.

Deviations from these Site Access Profiles must be approved in writing by the site owner(s). Ownership is defined as who owns the physical site and who purchased RF channels found on that site. In the case of state-owned sites, Operations Committee will review the deviation and recommend action to ISICSB for final approval.

The following Site Preference procedures are established to define individual radio access to ISICS repeater sites.

- Generally, talkgroup personalities should not have special site access permissions as site access should primarily be managed by talkgroup properties as established in the system.
- Generally, talkgroup personalities should be set to prefer the home infrastructure of the radio owner over that of non-home infrastructure.
- Generally, talkgroups with wide area access (e.g. statewide) should be set not to prefer one repeater site over another.

Deviations from these Site Preferences must be approved in writing by the impacted site owner(s). Ownership is defined as who owns the physical site and who purchase RF channels found on that site. In the case of state-owned sites, Operations Committee will review the deviation and recommend action to ISICSB for final approval.

The following is a Prohibited Action:

- Selecting a talkgroup (by choosing it as the transmit channel on a radio) for which one has no reasonable need to monitor (as defined by the impacted system administrator) is known as "parking on a talkgroup" and is prohibited. This does not prohibit one from including a talkgroup in a scan list while the radio is legitimately affiliated to another talkgroup.

Exceptions to any item in this standard should be decided on a case-by-case basis by either the Operations Committee or the Technology Committee and are subject to the ISICSB approval.

Emergency exceptions to this standard or emergency resolutions of site access issues may be temporarily authorized by agreement between a Subsystem Administrator and the Chair of ISICSB or the Chair of the Operations Committee (if the ISICSB Vice Chair is not available). Temporary authorization may exist until the next meeting of the Operations Committee or sixty days, no longer.

5. Recommended Procedure

Subsystem Administrators are responsible for ensuring that radios and infrastructure under their control comply with this standard.

6. Management

The Statewide System Administrator is expected to manage and enforce this standard. Conflicts should be handled through the Compliance and Conflict Resolution processes