

MIAMI VALLEY FIRE/EMS ALLIANCE
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Subject: 800 MHz Radio System Operations in Montgomery County

SOG Number: 2

Version 3.6

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PURPOSE:

The Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance, working in cooperation with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and numerous township, city and county agencies and departments, developed a regional radio template to be used by all local emergency responders on the City of Dayton and Montgomery County communications systems. This guideline provides direction and establishes radio protocols for operating in the region using these 800 MHz radio systems.

The following guidelines provide an overview of how departments are to use and interoperate on these trunked radio systems.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of each department to adopt and ensure compliance with these guidelines as they apply to each organization.

DEFINITIONS:

Dispatch Talkgroup: Talkgroup specifically designated for communications with the specified agency's dispatcher.

Fire Apparatus: Any piece of fire equipment operated by a fire department for the purpose of hazard mitigation - excluding all staff and command vehicles.

Interoperable Talkgroup: A talkgroup accessible to multiple agencies and jurisdictions that is used to provide direct communications for units working on the same assignment. Talkgroups can be restricted to specific agencies and jurisdictions based on their intended purpose, or can be restricted to a specific incident.

Inter-Public Safety Answering Point (I-PSAP) Talkgroup: Talkgroup designated for use only by dispatch centers as a direct mode of voice communication.

Medic Talkgroup: Talkgroup specifically designated for communications on routine EMS incidents that are not expected to escalate. More than one incident may be assigned to Medic Talkgroups as needed. Each Dispatch Center has at least one Medic Talkgroup available for assignment to incidents as needed.

Operations or “Ops” Talkgroup: Talkgroup specifically designated for incident communications, especially incidents with an Incident Command structure and/or incidents with the potential to escalate. Each Dispatch Center has at least two Operations Talkgroups available for assignment to incidents as needed. These are functionally the same as a Law Enforcement Tactical channels.

Duplex (Conventional) Channel: 800 MHz talkgroup operating over a repeater system, but not computer controlled (trunked).

Simplex Channel (Conventional Channel): Talkgroup that is 800MHz but not computer controlled (trunked) and does not use a repeater system. Simplex operates in a radio-to-radio mode or base-to-radio mode. Some simplex talkgroups are only radio-to-radio.

Trunked Radio System (TRS): A specialized repeater system with one or more towers, and multiple frequencies. This allows communications over a virtually unlimited number of talkgroups. A control channel communicates with all radios on the system, working to conserve a limited number of radio frequencies and provide other advanced features to users.

COMMUNICATING:

The best means of communications at an emergency scene is face-to-face. Face-to-face communications should be utilized whenever possible within the company or operational area. Radios will be used whenever distance or circumstances prevent face-to-face communication. Radio transmissions should be prioritized and concise.

It is critical to be familiar with the operation and position of all radio capabilities and controls. This familiarity will permit personnel to operate their radios in adverse conditions, even zero visibility.

Be short and specific with radio messages. Know what you’re going to say before transmitting. Choose precise terms to communicate the desired message as clearly and briefly as possible to minimize air time. Speak clearly at a practical rate; not too fast, not too slow. Control your emotions and excitement deliberately. If you do not consciously control your voice, it will become garbled under stress.

Messages should be well-timed and spaced. Prioritize your messages. Do not use up valuable air time with unimportant messages and insignificant details. Let critical messages go first. Maintain an awareness of the overall situation and your role in it.

Do not interrupt conversations unless absolutely necessary. Listen before transmitting. Pause between consecutive messages. This will make it clear when one message has been completed and another started. It will also give other units a chance to get on the air with important messages.

“Plain language” radio messages should be used in preference to numerical codes to facilitate understanding.

It may be difficult to determine what talkgroup a user is on, especially if the radio is in “scan” mode – it can be helpful to state the talkgroup in your message. Ex: “Medic 22 from Engine 23 on Ops 42.”

FIRE RADIO TEMPLATE:

The organization of talkgroups, known as the Fire Interoperability Template (Fire Template), is established by the Communications Committee of the Miami Valley Fire and EMS Alliance, and approved by the Executive Board of the Alliance and the Montgomery County Fire Chief's Association.

“BLIND” DESIGN:

The Fire Template is laid out to allow the user to find essential talkgroups without looking at the radio. Regardless of the Zone, a user can turn the channel selector counter-clockwise (to the # 1 position) and the radio will be on the Dispatch Talkgroup. Turning the channel selector clockwise (to the last, # 16, position) will place the radio on the Simplex Talkgroup. This is of particular importance if the user is in zero visibility or other distress. NOTE: Trunked radios do not have the ability to scan Fire Simplex. For anyone to hear radio traffic on Fire Simplex, another radio has to be monitoring Fire Simplex. See *Fire Simplex* below.

ZONE GROUPING:

To facilitate interoperability and interdepartmental cooperation, Montgomery County Fire Agency Radios have been divided into ten zones. Zones 1 and 3 are fire agency-specific, grouping talkgroups as an agency sees fit. Zones 2 and 4 – 10 are the same on all Fire Radios, regardless of agency.

FIRE AGENCY PROCEDURES:

DISPATCH CENTERS:

There are nine Dispatch Centers interacting with Fire Agencies within Montgomery County. Six (6) Dispatch Centers handle single departments, while three (3) other Dispatch Centers dispatch multiple fire agencies.

Talkgroups are organized based on current and expected Dispatch Center needs. Appendix A lists specific talkgroup and Dispatch Center information.

DISPATCH TALKGROUPS:

Dispatch talkgroups (TGs) allow radio users to communicate directly with dispatchers at a given Dispatch Center. Typically incidents are assigned to Fire and EMS apparatus on a dispatch talkgroup. An incident may or may not be moved to another appropriate talkgroup, depending on the type of incident, and/or agency involved.

All Dispatch Centers have one Dispatch Talkgroup, except for the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center (RDC). The RDC has three (3) dispatch talkgroups: one (1) for the Dayton Fire Department “DAYTON FD”, one (1) for all other fire agencies dispatched from the RDC “COUNTY FD1”, and one (1) for future needs “COUNTY FD2”. RDC also has backup Dispatch talkgroups.

OPERATIONAL TALKGROUPS:

Within the Fire Template there are forty-five (45) operational talkgroups available for assignment to incidents. Thirty-six (36) of these are within Zones 4 – 8 and are aligned with specific Dispatch Centers. Four (4) are considered “overflow” talkgroups and can be assigned as needed. An additional five (5) operational talkgroups are in Zone 10. These talkgroups are intended for communications involving out-of-county resources.

Operational TGs are monitored by some Dispatch Centers, and not by others.

Communications between field units and Dispatch during incidents are controlled by the agency and Dispatch Center SOPs.

ASSIGNMENT AND USE OF OPERATIONAL TALKGROUPS:

For incidents with the potential to escalate, or that have a need for an isolated talkgroup specific to a single incident, Dispatch Centers will assign an Operational Talkgroup. Upon the Incident Commander’s request, Dispatch Centers can assign multiple talkgroups to the same incident to meet communications needs. A rural water supply operation or structure fires with a rapid intervention operation in progress are examples of incidents which may utilize more than one Operational Talkgroup.

“Overflow” Operational Talkgroups exist in Zone 4 (Ops 48 and 49) and in Zone 6 (Ops 68 and 69). See *Overflow Talkgroups* below.

Operations Talkgroups 102 – 106 are intended for communications with adjacent counties. When possible, two Operations Talkgroups will be available on the communications consoles of neighboring counties, allowing these Montgomery County Talkgroups to be patched to a channel within that county’s radio system. Operations 102 thru 105 are assigned geographically. Operations 106 is the “Overflow” Operational Talkgroup for county-to-county operational communications needs.

- Operations 102 and 106: Counties North of Montgomery (Darke, Miami)
- Operations 103 and 106: Counties East of Montgomery (Clark, Greene)
- Operations 104 and 106: Counties South of Montgomery (Warren, Butler)
- Operations 105 and 106: Counties West of Montgomery (Preble)

BEST PRACTICE

Dispatch-related communications should take place on a **Dispatch Talkgroup** between a Dispatcher and field units. Incident-related or “car-to-car” types of communication should not take place on Dispatch Talkgroups. The primary purpose for a Dispatch Talkgroup is to allow a dispatcher and field units efficiently communicate non-operational messages (alerting, status changes, directions, repeat address requests, etc.). Brief communications between units for the purpose of “Hailing” may be permitted on the Dispatch TG. For example, “Ladder A to Medic 44, meet me on Operations 53.” Incident-related communications should take place between field units on **Operational Talkgroups**. As field units assigned to an incident may depend on an uncongested Operational Talkgroup to

transmit a life or death message, dispatch-related communications (alerting, status changes, directions, repeat address requests, etc.) should not occur on an Operational Talkgroup. This practice almost requires a “fixed Incident Commander” to monitor both the Dispatch Talkgroup and the assigned Operational Talkgroup. This is most easily accomplished with a mobile radio placed on one talkgroup, and a portable radio placed on the other.

MEDICAL TALKGROUPS:

Medical Talkgroups differ from Operational Talkgroups somewhat. They are intended to provide a communications option for routine EMS incidents. Agency and Dispatch Center policy will define how these Medical Talkgroups are utilized. Agencies and Dispatch Centers with very little call volume may not routinely utilize their available Medical Talkgroup at all. Agencies and Dispatch Centers with a moderate call volume may assign incident communications to a Medical Talkgroup to move routine EMS incident radio traffic off of the Dispatch Talkgroup. Agencies and Dispatch Centers with a heavy call volume may utilize multiple Medical Talkgroups, assigning them to almost every EMS incident. This keeps the Dispatch Talkgroup free for dispatching incidents, and keeps Operational Talkgroups available for complex incidents.

ASSIGNMENT AND USE OF MEDICAL TALKGROUPS:

Each Dispatch Center has at least one Medical Talkgroup available to use as needed. Dispatch Centers with multiple Medical Talkgroups should assign these on a rotating basis. An example of this would be as follows:

EMS Incident #1: Medic 48 and Truck 50 assigned to **Talkgroup Medic 8 Alpha** at 0755 hrs

EMS Incident #2: Medic 61 and Engine 60 assigned to **Talkgroup Medic 8 Bravo** at 0757 hrs

EMS Incident #3: Medic 73 and Engine 73 assigned to **Talkgroup Medic 8 Charlie** at 0758 hrs

EMS Incident #4: Medic 76 and Utility 76 assigned to **Talkgroup Medic 8 Alpha** at 0801 hrs

EMS Incident #5: Medic 94 and Engine 95 assigned to **Talkgroup Medic 8 Bravo** at 0803 hrs

Given the likelihood that these routine EMS incidents are sharing a talkgroup, field crews must use proper radio etiquette. Simply saying “Engine to the Medic – just bring your cot” may send a message to the wrong crew. Radio traffic should at least be “Medic 72 from Engine 73 – just bring your cot”.

Most EMS incidents should only require a very simple command structure with very little radio traffic. When EMS calls will for some reason have more radio traffic than usual (vehicle crash that needs several Fire and EMS resources, for example), the Incident Commander should request assignment of an Operational Talkgroup to avoid the possibility of another incident being assigned to the same TG.

It is also important to identify the talkgroup properly. Over a radio, saying “Talkgroup 4-A” or “Talkgroup 8-A” can sound like “Talkgroup 4-8” or “Talkgroup 8-8”. A crew may end up on Operations 88 when they should be on Medic 8A. It would be most appropriate to state “Use Talkgroup Medic 8-Alpha”, “Use Talkgroup Medic 8-Bravo”, “Use Talkgroup Medic 8-

Charlie”, etc. It is not necessary to use both the phonetic and letter designation (“Medic 8-B-Bravo”).

FIRE SIMPLEX TALKGROUP:

The Fire Simplex Talkgroup is a conventional (non-trunked) channel that will provide a radio-to-radio communications link. It is most appropriate to utilize Fire Simplex for incident communications when reception on the assigned Operations or Medical Talkgroup isn’t possible. Examples of this would be companies operating in a large metal building or a radio system failure which prevents use of a trunked talkgroup.

A radio cannot scan both trunked and conventional talkgroups at the same time – one radio cannot monitor an assigned Operations Talkgroup *AND* the Fire Simplex Talkgroup.

BEST PRACTICE

Ideally an Incident Commander will have the ability to monitor radio traffic on three (3) talkgroups: Dispatch, the assigned Operations talkgroup, and Fire Simplex. This almost always will have to be in a “fixed” command position, such as an apparatus cab, SUV, or other command post.

Some agencies equip such vehicles with two mobile radios, with one dedicated to just communicating on the conventional talkgroups (such as Fire Simplex). The radio to monitor conventional talkgroups does not have to be a radio that can communicate on the trunked system, so considerable money can be saved by equipping vehicle with a trunking 800 mobile radio, a non-trunking 800 mobile radio, and a trunking 800 portable radio. This will allow the Incident Commander the latitude to monitor and communicate on Dispatch, the assigned Operations talkgroup, and Fire Simplex as needed.

Monitoring Simplex during structural incidents is especially important. Should a crew encounter an out of range signal for the trunked TG, they can simply rotate the dial to Simplex for communications, if it is monitored by IC.

SCAN FEATURE:

Departments that decide to enable scanning on radios need to consider two issues:

- There are two trunked radio systems in use (City of Dayton and Montgomery County) – it is not possible to scan both;
- Priority scan may be programmed to either have the TalkGroup selected on the radio as the priority channel, or to have a designated TalkGroup (e.g., Dispatch) always be the priority channel. In either case, traffic on the priority channel can result in missing traffic on other scanned channels.

PD/FD TALKGROUP:

Some agencies may elect to create a PD/FD Talkgroup in one of their agency-defined zones. PD/FD Talkgroups are specific to Fire and Law Enforcement agencies that share a similar service area. These talkgroups allow direct Fire unit to Law Enforcement unit

communication, eliminating the need to relay messages through the Dispatch Center or tying up an Interoperability Talkgroup, especially for routine day-to-day messages.

CHATTER TALKGROUPS:

Some agencies may elect to create a Chatter Talkgroup in one of their agency-defined zones. This permits a talkgroup for “car-to-car” types of transmissions without tying up Medical or Operational talkgroups. If agencies do not have designated Chatter Talkgroups, they may choose to utilize their own “administrative”, “training”, or “citywide” talkgroups for this purpose.

Field units should **not** use medical and operational talkgroups on their own – use of these talkgroups are to be coordinated by the Dispatch Center they are assigned to.

EMERGENCY BUTTONS:

Most trunked radios are equipped with Emergency Buttons. An agency may or may not choose to have this as an active button on their radios. If it is active, it will be programmed to specific parameters.

Note: agencies should discourage users from depending on hitting the Emergency Button to initiate a distress call. The buttons may be small and difficult to push with bulky gloves, in low light, or other trying conditions. Although it may be helpful to activate the Emergency Button as described below, it is certainly more expedient to utilize the push-to-talk button and transmit the appropriate message.

The user is encouraged to push the Emergency Button when it is necessary to attract attention and/or become the priority user on the talkgroup. Examples of this include repeated unanswered calls to the Incident Commander or other radios, or excessive radio traffic that prevents transmission of a life-or-death message. Activating the Emergency Button will make the user the priority radio on the talkgroup and will alert the Dispatch Center responsible for that talkgroup.

EMERGENCY BUTTON ACTIVATION AND PROCEDURES:

Once a user has activated the Emergency Button, they now are the priority user on that talkgroup. The priority will remain with the TG selected on that radio; i.e., if the user changes TGs by moving the selector knob to another position, the priority will now be on the new TG. All other radios on that talkgroup will now hear what is transmitted from that radio. Simultaneously, an alert will be received at a Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center must immediately inform the Incident Commander that an Emergency Button activation has been received. A potential scenario is as follows:

On Operations 72, Engine 99’s Officer pushes his Emergency Button and becomes the priority user on Ops 72. The Englewood Dispatch Center would notify the Incident Commander that an Emergency Button has been activated by Engine 99A. The Incident Commander is now aware and responsible for determining the condition of Engine 99’s Officer if not already known.

If the user is in distress, the Incident Commander may elect to request that another Operational Talkgroup (Operations 73) be assigned and may move all other users there, leaving just the distressed user and any other necessary resources (Rapid Intervention Team) on Ops 72.

If the Incident Commander determines the Emergency Button activation was an accident, Engine 99A is told to reset his radio (turn radio off, then back on, and then verify the radio is on the assigned Operations Talkgroup). The Incident Commander would then inform the Dispatch Center of the accidental activation and confirm the activation has cleared from the console.

EMERGENCY BUTTON RADIO PROGRAMMING:

Agencies that choose to activate the emergency button on their portable radios through programming shall have them set for the following parameters:

- Lock the radio on the talkgroup selected by the channel selector
- Have no automatic transmit or “open mic” time.
 - Radios can be programmed to automatically activate the push-to-talk button, however, tests with this function proved this causes more negatives than positives.
- Audible Emergency Alarm should be disabled
 - Although radios can be programmed to provide an immediate audible alarm when the emergency button is activated, this is discouraged.
 - It may be desirable to have the ability to activate a silent alarm, especially in cases where a discrete distress activation is necessary.
 - Given the established procedure, a radio user should be notified almost immediately that an emergency button activation has been received
- Console Acknowledgement should be required

RADIO IDs AND ALIASES

Since any radio could potentially transmit on any Talkgroup, it is extremely important that radio ID numbers and their corresponding aliases are maintained in a master database. If a radio’s ID/Alias is not properly entered at each Dispatch Center, it would be possible to have an Emergency Button Activation that only provides a six digit ID number, with no further explanation. Current and accurate ID and Alias information will save valuable time in an emergency.

Given the importance of the master database, the Alliance Communications Committee will establish and maintain an Alias Master Database. This database will be updated on a regular basis and provided to each Dispatch Supervisor on a regular and ongoing basis as needed. Within the Alliance Alias Database, each department will be given an appropriate identifier and then a radio assignment designation. Each department should provide a point-of-contact to assist the Alliance Communications Committee in keeping this database current and accurate.

MUTUAL AID REQUESTS:

Upon the initial request for mutual aid, the requesting Dispatch Center will inform the requested mutual aid agency of the assigned Operations Talkgroup for that incident.

Responding:

Responding mutual aid companies will continue to communicate with their own Dispatch Center (per agency guidelines) *AND* with the Dispatch Center requesting mutual aid on their Dispatch Talkgroup. All status changes (enroute, on scene, in service) should take place on the Dispatch Talkgroup – not the Operations Talkgroup. This will lessen the possibility of a responding mutual aid company transmitting rather unimportant radio traffic on the Operations Talkgroup while a working company is attempting to communicate a higher priority message.

While responding, mutual aid resources should monitor the assigned Operations Talkgroup, being prepared to receive messages prior to arrival.

Arriving:

Mutual Aid resources should mark on the scene with the requesting agency's Dispatch Center on the Dispatch Talkgroup. They should then notify the Incident Commander (or Staging Officer or other designee) of their approach/arrival on the assigned Operations Talkgroup. Care must be taken to listen closely to the Operations Talkgroup prior to transmitting to make sure not to cover messages in progress from crews already working at the incident.

FIRE/POLICE INTEROPERABILITY:

All fire and police agencies operating on the Montgomery County or City of Dayton 800 MHz radio systems will share a set of nine interoperable talkgroups. Of these talkgroups, four (4) are designated as Law Enforcement (LE) 1-4, four (4) are designated as Interoperability (I-OP) 1-4, and one (1) is designated as County Common (COMMON) (see appendix A).

Most fire and police agencies share a common talkgroup within their own jurisdictions. These may be used on a day-to-day basis for routine incidents.

The LE and I-OP talkgroups are available for fire and police agencies that do not share a common talkgroup and/or for incidents involving fire and police agencies from different or multiple jurisdictions.

A fire or police Incident Commander may initiate the use of a LE or I-OP talkgroup whenever he or she deems it necessary. This is done by contacting their respective Dispatch Center and requesting an Interoperable Talkgroup. The Incident Commander shall identify which jurisdictions will participate. The dispatcher will assign the first available Interoperable Talkgroup according to their procedure.

DISPATCH CENTER PROCEDURES:

GENERAL DISPATCH INFORMATION

IPSAP TALKGROUP

The IPSAP talkgroup is shared between all dispatch centers on the 800 MHz radio system. Its intent is to provide dispatch centers with another efficient means of communication with other dispatch centers both in and around Montgomery County. The following are general guidelines for the use of the talkgroup, which is referenced in other parts of this procedure:

- Must be monitored at all times.
- May be used and is preferred by some dispatch centers to request mutual aid resources.
- May be used to make emergency announcements to all dispatch centers (e.g., major incidents, mass casualty, hazmat, severe weather warnings and events, etc).
- Shall be used when assigning an interoperable talkgroup
- Shall be used at relinquishment of an interoperable talkgroup.
- May be used for quick communication to other dispatch centers for the purpose of sharing important information when other methods would cause delay.
- Dispatch centers making announcements and/or messages shall identify themselves and identify what jurisdiction(s) the announcement and/or message is directed to.
 - All normal radio etiquette shall be observed during an IPSAP call.

IPSAP CALLS

- An IPSAP call is defined as a radio message intended for a specific dispatch center
- Dispatch centers named as a participating jurisdiction during a call must acknowledge this fact over IPSAP Before the calling agency can proceed with their message. (Example: “Dayton dispatch to Kettering and Centerville” “Kettering Dispatch, Go ahead” “Centerville Dispatch, Go Ahead”)

IPSAP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- An IPSAP Announcement is defined as a radio message intended for multiple dispatch centers.
- There is no need for confirmation of receipt for an announcement unless requested by the announcing agency.

BEST PRACTICE

I-PSAP is the best form of communication between Dispatch Centers when requesting mutual aid resources. Not only is this faster than trying to fit another phone call into an already busy Dispatch Center, the I-PSAP radio will be answered within the Dispatch Center. An additional benefit is the I-PSAP radio message is heard by all Dispatch Centers, keeping all informed of incidents in progress that may result in additional requests for resources.

FIRE DISPATCH PROCEDURES:

TALKGROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Talkgroups (Operations or Medical) will be assigned as outlined previously. The assigned talkgroup shall be reserved for an incident until that incident is terminated and the talkgroup is no longer needed.

Some agencies find value in skipping Operational Talkgroups when assigning them. An example would an incident being assigned to Ops 82. Another incident is dispatched and assigned to Ops 84. Should the incident on Ops 82 escalate to the point of needing a second Operational Talkgroup, Ops 83 would be available and the logical one to assign. Other agencies will choose to simply assign incidents to talkgroups as they occur, since the need for a second talkgroup is infrequent. They would operate in this manner: the first incident to Ops 82, a second incident to Ops 83, and a third to Ops 84. If any of those incidents required another talkgroup, the next available would simply be assigned.

OVERFLOW TALKGROUPS

If a Dispatch Center has a need for an Operational Talkgroup but has no more available to assign, it may “claim” an available Over-flow Ops Talkgroup. This must be coordinated among the nine Dispatch Centers, and can be easily accomplished by transmitting a message to all Dispatch Centers via the I-PSAP Talkgroup. *Example: “Attention All Dispatch Centers...Operations 48 is assigned to a structure fire on Brandt Pike until further notice...Authority of Brandt Command, relayed Huber Dispatch, 15:02”.* A similar announcement will be necessary once this talkgroup is no longer needed.

If one of the four (4) designated Overflow Talkgroups is not available, one Dispatch Center may contact another Dispatch Center to request the use of an available talkgroup. Once a talkgroup has been assigned to an incident, both dispatch centers will mark it as such to avoid assigning that talkgroup to another incident. Once the incident has been terminated, the primary dispatch center will re-contact the agency from which the talkgroup was borrowed, and inform them it may be put back in service.

This procedure may be done via phone or the I-PSAP talkgroup.

INTEROPERABLE TALKGROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Fire or Law Enforcement personnel can initiate the use of an interoperable talkgroup for any incident whenever deemed necessary. Contacting their respective Dispatch Center and requesting an interoperable talkgroup will accomplish this. The Incident Commander shall identify to the dispatcher which jurisdictions and agencies will participate, then the dispatcher will make the appropriate talkgroup assignment based on the following criteria:

- LE 1 thru LE 4 are for incidents involving Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS use only
- I-OP 1 thru I-OP4 are for incidents involving all public service agencies on the 800MHz system

- Common is for incidents involving agencies using VHF (150MHz) radios for communications with agencies on the 800MHz system.

The following procedure applies when assigning an interoperable talkgroup:

- All Dispatchers shall maintain a list of the available Interoperable Talkgroups by monitoring the IPSAP Talkgroup. This list will include talkgroup names, status, and their quadrant associations (if applicable).
- The dispatcher will assign the default LE or I-OP talkgroup according to the quadrant of the incident location.
- If the default talkgroup is unavailable, the dispatcher will assign the next available talkgroup in consecutive order. The dispatcher may assign an I-OP Talkgroup as a substitute when no LE talkgroups are available.
- Upon assigning an Interoperable Talkgroup the dispatcher will announce this fact over the IPSAP talkgroup. The announcement shall include:
 - Lead agency / jurisdiction acquiring the talkgroup(s).
 - The LE and / or I-OP talkgroup(s) being designated for use.
 - The incident type and location, when appropriate.
 - Participating jurisdictions.
- Upon relinquishment of the interoperable talkgroup, the dispatcher will announce this fact over the IPSAP Talkgroup.

All Participating dispatch centers within the IPSAP network are required to maintain a running log regarding the availability of the nine interoperable talkgroups at all times to prevent interference with any agency using the talkgroups, and to be aware of incidents which may expand to involve their jurisdiction.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH PROCEDURES:

INTEROPERABLE TALKGROUP ASSIGNMENTS

A Fire or Law Enforcement member can initiate the use of an interoperable talkgroup for any incident whenever deemed necessary. Contacting their respective dispatch center and requesting an interoperable talkgroup will accomplish this. The Incident Commander shall identify to the dispatcher which jurisdictions and / or agencies will participate, then the dispatcher will make the appropriate talkgroup assignment based on the following criteria:

- LE 1 thru LE 4 are for incidents involving Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS use only
- I-OP 1 thru I-OP4 are for incidents involving all public service agencies on the 800MHz system
- Common is for incidents involving agencies using VHF (150MHz) radios for communications with agencies on the 800MHz system.

The following procedure applies when assigning an interoperable talkgroup:

- All Dispatchers shall maintain a list of the available Interoperable Talkgroups by monitoring the IPSAP Talkgroup. This list will include talkgroup names, status, and their quadrant associations (if applicable). All Participating dispatch centers within the IPSAP network are required to maintain a running log regarding the availability of the nine interoperable talkgroups at all times to prevent interference with any agency using the talkgroups, and to be aware of incidents which may expand to involve their jurisdiction.
- The dispatcher will assign the default LE or I-OP talkgroup according to the quadrant of the incident location.
- If the default talkgroup is unavailable, the dispatcher will assign the next available talkgroup in consecutive order. The dispatcher may assign an I-OP Talkgroup as a substitute when no LE talkgroups are available.
- Upon assigning an Interoperable Talkgroup the dispatcher will announce this fact over the IPSAP talkgroup. The announcement shall include:
 - Lead agency/jurisdiction acquiring the talkgroup(s).
 - The LE and/or I-OP talkgroup(s) being designated for use.
 - The incident type and location, when appropriate.
 - Participating jurisdictions.
- Upon relinquishment of the interoperable talkgroup, the dispatcher will announce this fact over the IPSAP Talkgroup.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROCEDURES

The following guideline establishes a procedure providing interoperable communications for first responders involved in operations that involve multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-discipline response within Montgomery County. The interoperable talkgroups utilized in this procedure are LE-1, LE-2, LE-3, LE-4, I-OP-1, I-OP-2, I-OP-3, I-OP-4, and COMMON. These talkgroups have been specifically created to support this guideline and their use is outlined as follows.

General guidelines

- Police and fire agencies share all nine (9) interoperable talkgroups. The four (4) LE talkgroups will typically be used by police agencies from different jurisdictions.
- Support agencies will have the four (4) I-OP talkgroups and COMMON only. They will typically use these talkgroups for communications with public safety agencies.
- The I-OP talkgroups will also be used for major incidents involving multiple agencies and disciplines.
- All dispatch centers shall maintain a list of the Interoperable Talkgroups by monitoring the IPSAP talkgroup. This list will include the names of the interoperable talkgroups, their status, (available or unavailable) and their default quadrant associations.
- Dispatchers upon the request of their respective field units, incident commanders, and support agency representatives assign the interoperable talkgroups.

The Law Enforcement 800 MHz interoperable template is programmed in “Zone 3” of all Law Enforcement 800 MHz radios programmed for participation in the Miami Valley Public Safety Interoperability plan. An illustration can be found in Appendix B.

BOUNDARIES

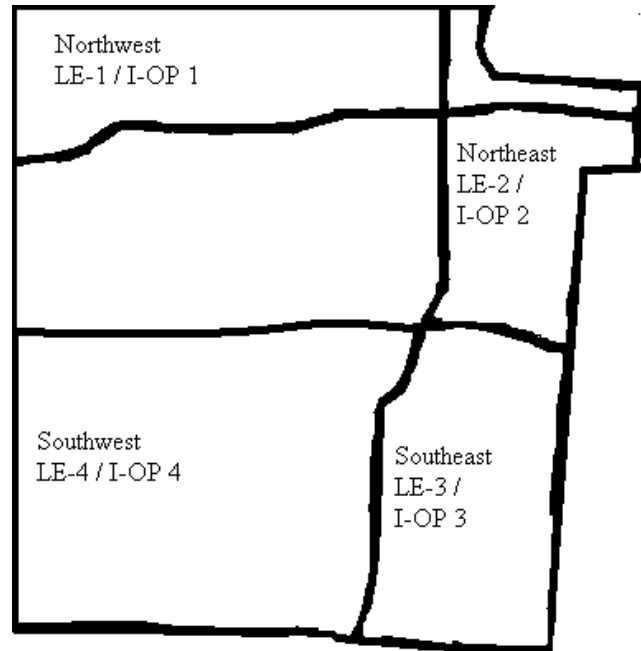
For the purpose of utilizing the interoperable talkgroups to their fullest benefit, Montgomery County has been divided into quadrants. Interstate-75 determines the boundary for East and West, and US Route-35 sets the boundary for North and South.

Each quadrant is assigned two talkgroups, an LE talkgroup and an I-OP talkgroup, as follows:

- Northwest quadrant is assigned talkgroups LE-1 and I-OP 1.
- Northeast quadrant is assigned talkgroups LE-2 and I-OP 2.
- Southeast quadrant is assigned LE-3 and I-OP 3.

Southwest quadrant is assigned LE-4 and I-OP 4.

QUADRANTS



TALKGROUP SELECTION AND PROTOCOL

When a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-discipline response develops within a quadrant, interoperable communications may be established by utilizing one or both of the interoperable talkgroups assigned to the quadrant, as circumstances warrant.

If a jurisdiction falls into more than one quadrant, the talkgroup(s) employed for an incident shall be determined by the quadrant in which the incident is actually located.

In situations where:

- The primary LE and/or I-OP talkgroups for a quadrant are being used for another incident;

-OR-

- Incident/Unified Command determines a need for additional interoperable talkgroups;

-OR-

- Unrelated incidents develop within the same quadrant;

Dispatchers shall utilize a progression to determine which additional interoperable talkgroups to acquire, e.g., LE-1 > LE-2 > LE-3 > LE-4 > LE-1 and I-OP 1 > I-OP 2 > I-OP 3 > I-OP 4 > I-OP 1.

Example

If an incident located in the Northeast quadrant requires three LE talkgroups and two I-OP talkgroups they should utilize LE-2, LE-3, LE-4, I-OP 2 and I-OP 3. However, if the primary

LE talkgroup for the Northeast quadrant was unavailable for use in that incident, the talkgroups used should be LE-3, LE-4, LE-1, I-OP 2, I-OP 3.

Once the dispatcher determines which interoperable talkgroups are available for use, the information shall be provided to the Incident/Unified Commander(s) for assignment.

When an interoperable talkgroup has been assigned to an incident, the talkgroup shall remain with that incident throughout its duration, or until such time that its utilization is determined no longer to be required and Incident/Unified Command relinquishes it.

I-PSAP NOTIFICATION

- In all cases where it is determined that an interoperable talkgroup is to be utilized, either for large scale or small incidents, the dispatcher for the lead agency shall announce its use via broadcast over the IPSAP talkgroup per their protocol.
- The dispatcher shall also announce via broadcast over the IPSAP talkgroup when the interoperable talkgroup is relinquished per their protocol.
- All participating dispatch centers within the IPSAP network are required to maintain a running log regarding the availability of the eight interoperable talkgroups at all times so as to prevent interference with agencies using them, and to be aware of incidents which may expand.

RESPONDERS WITH VHF RADIOS

Radio communications may be established with responders possessing VHF radios by utilizing the COMMON talkgroup, if the VHF radio is programmed with a channel containing Montgomery County's permanent 800 MHz/VHF patch. The frequency and PL for the County VHF Common channel is 158.775 TX (PL TX 151.4) and 153.740 RX (no PL just carrier squelch).

EXTENDED INTEROPERABILITY PROCEDURE

RESPONDERS FROM OUTSIDE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

If personnel respond from other counties or from state and/or federal agencies, radio communications may be established by utilizing one or more of the five National Mutual Aid talkgroups that have been programmed into 800 MHz radios (8CALL90, 8TAC91, 8TAC92, 8TAC93, and 8TAC94), or by using MARCS Select.

PD SIMPLEX TALKGROUP

The PD Simplex Talkgroup is a conventional (non-trunked) channel that will provide a radio-to-radio communications link. It is most appropriate to utilize PD Simplex for incident communications when reception on the assigned Police Operational Talkgroup isn't possible. Examples of this would be teams operating in a large metal building or a radio system failure which prevents use of a trunked talkgroup.

A radio cannot scan both trunked and conventional talkgroups at the same time – one radio cannot monitor an assigned Operations Talkgroup *AND* the PD Simplex Talkgroup.

APPENDIX A

CH	FIRE DEPT ZONE 1	HOSPITAL ZONE 2	FIRE DEPT ZONE 3	ZONE 4	ZONE 5	ZONE 6	ZONE 7	ZONE 8	INTEROP ZONE 9	REGIONAL ZONE 10
1	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP
2	USER DEFINED	CMC*	USER DEFINED	Operations 42	Operations 52*	Operations 62	Operations 72	Operations 82	LE 1	Operations 102
3		MVH*		Operations 43	Operations 53*	Operations 63	Operations 73	Operations 83	LE 2	Operations 103
4		MVH S		Operations 44	Operations 54*	Operations 64 *	Operations 74	Operations 84	LE 3	Operations 104
5		GSH*		Operations 45	Operations 55*	Operations 65 *	Operations 75	Operations 85	LE 4	Operations 105
6		GVH*		Operations 46	Operations 56*	Operations 66	Operations 76	Operations 86	I-OP 1	Operations 106
7		KMC*		Operations 47	Operations 57*	Operations 67	Operations 77	Operations 87	I-OP 2	MUTUAL AID
8		SMC		Operations 48	Operations 58*	Operations 68	Operations 78	Operations 88	I-OP 3	R3 RST
9		SVH		Operations 49	Operations 59*	Operations 69	Operations 79	Operations 89	I-OP 4	MCOEM
10		WPMC*		Medic 4 Alpha	Medic 5 Alpha*	Medic 6 Alpha	Medic 7 Alpha	Medic 8 Alpha	COMMON	CORONER
11		VA*		Medic 4 Bravo	Medic 5 Bravo*	Medic 6 Bravo	Medic 7 Bravo	Medic 8 Bravo	8 CALL 90+	MARCS SO57
12		8 TAC 92D A1+		Medic 4 Charlie	Medic 5 Charlie*	Medic 6 Charlie	Medic 7 Charlie	Medic 8 Charlie	8 TAC 91+	MARCS SELECT
13		8 TAC 94D A2+		Huber FD Disp	Dayton FD Disp*	Kettering FD Disp	Englewood FD Disp	County RDC 1	8 TAC 92+	UHF
14		HEALTH		Vandalia FD Disp	Airport FD (DOA)*	Oakwood FD Disp *	Moraine FD Disp	County RDC 2	8 TAC 93+	REGROUP (MC)
15		HOSP NET		DISP CEN DAY800*	DFD MC800	Wash Twp FD Disp	W Carrol FD Disp	RDC DAY800*	8 TAC 94+	REGROUP (DAY)*
16		FD Simplex+		FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+	FD Simplex+

(+) conventional channel; (*) TG on the Dayton TRS; all others on the Montgomery Co. TRS

REGIONAL FIRE RADIO TEMPLATE TABLE

All zones will have the agency’s home dispatch talkgroup in position 1 of each zone and the simplex channel (FD or PD) in position 16 (last position on the dial) of each zone. This is purposely designed so the user can easily find their home dispatch talkgroup or the simplex channel during emergency situations. Additionally, Operational Talkgroups coincide with their Zone and Channel Position in the radio = Zone 4, Channel 2 is Ops 42, and so on.

ZONE EXPLANATIONS

ZONES 1 and 3

Channel positions 2 thru 15 in Zones 1 and 3 are reserved for individual agency preferences.

One of many examples for agency preference would be to have Zone 1 contain most talkgroups affiliated with your political subdivision (Fire Talkgroups, Police Talkgroups, PD/FD Talkgroup, Service Talkgroup, Admin Talkgroup, etc.)

Zone 3 could have talkgroups affiliated with the other agencies you operate with the most. Although those agencies talkgroups are available elsewhere in the template, placing the ones you use most into Zone 3 allows you to arrange them in the most convenient order for your agency.

CH	FIRE DEPT ZONE 1	FIRE DEPT ZONE 3
1	FIRE DISP	FIRE DISP
2	USER DEFINED	USER DEFINED
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		

ZONE 2

Commonly known as the “Hospital Zone”, Zone 2 contains talkgroups used to communicate with area hospitals, medical aircraft, and others.

To notify a hospital, the user must first select the appropriate channel position. Next, the user must push the “Page” button and then arrow right or left to display the hospital ID number. Then the user must depress the push-to-talk button. This will page the selected hospital. When the hospital answers the page, communication can begin on the talkgroup.

	HOSPITAL
CH	ZONE 2
1	FIRE DISP
2	CMC*
3	MVH*
4	MVH S
5	GSH*
6	GVH*
7	KMC*
8	SMC
9	SVH
10	WPMC*
11	VA*
12	8 TAC 92D A1+
13	8 TAC 94D A2+
14	HEALTH
15	HOSP NET
16	FD Simplex+

Channel 2: Children’s “2 CMC”

This is the Children’s Medical Center Talkgroup.

Channel 3: Miami Valley “2 MVH”

This is the Miami Valley Hospital Talkgroup.

Channel 4: Miami Valley-South “2 MVH S”

This is the Miami Valley Hospital - South Talkgroup.

Channel 5: Good Samaritan “2 GSH”

This is the Good Samaritan Hospital Talkgroup.

Channel 6: Grandview “2 GVH”

This is the Grandview Hospital Talkgroup. It is shared with Huber ER.

Channel 7: Kettering “2 KMC”

This is the Kettering Medical Center Talkgroup.

Channel 8: Sycamore “2 SMC”

This is the Sycamore Medical Center Talkgroup.

Channel 9: Southview “2 SVH”

This is the Southview Hospital Talkgroup. It is shared with Soin ER.

Channel 10: Wright-Patterson “2 WPMC”

This is the Wright-Patt Medical Center Talkgroup.

Channel 11: Veteran’s Medical Center “2 VA”

This is the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center Talkgroup.

Channel 12: Aeromedical 1 “2 8TAC92D A1”

This is a Medical Helicopter Talkgroup. 8TAC92D comes from federally recommended radio nomenclature.

Channel 13: Aeromedical 2 “2 8TAC94D A2”

This is a Medical Helicopter Talkgroup.

Channel 14: Health “2 CO HEALTH”

This TG is available for extended health or medical incidents or situations (e.g., pandemic flu). It is available at the user’s discretion.

Channel 15: Hospital Net “2 HOSP NET”

This is a regional Hospital Talkgroup, used primarily for hospital to hospital communications during major emergencies.

ZONE 4

This Zone contains Talkgroups utilized by the Huber Heights and Vandalia Dispatch Centers, and also Talkgroup named “County-Wide Public Safety Backup”.

In the event of a failure involving the computers that control the radio system, the County-wide Public Safety Backup will give users of the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System a talkgroup common to all dispatch centers. This backup talkgroup is located on the Dayton Trunked Radio System.

CH	ZONE 4
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 42
3	Operations 43
4	Operations 44
5	Operations 45
6	Operations 46
7	Operations 47
8	Operations 48
9	Operations 49
10	Medic 4 Alpha
11	Medic 4 Bravo
12	Medic 4 Charlie
13	Huber FD Disp
14	Vandalia FD Disp
15	DISP CEN DAY800*
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 5: Operations 42 thru 45 “4 OPS 42”; “4 OPS 43”; “4 OPS 44”; “4 OPS 45”

These are Huber Heights Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 6 and 7: Operations 46 and 47 “4 OPS 46”; “4 OPS 47”

These are Vandalia Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 8 and 9: Operations 48 and 49 “4 OPS 48”; “4 OPS 49”

These are expansion and overflow Fire Operations Talkgroups. Note that Ops 48 is now a Zone 4 Overflow talkgroup for the dispatch centers in Zone 4 (Huber & Vandalia) and should no longer be used for primary mutual aid communications with Miami County. See Zone 10 for communications with Miami County.

Channel 10: Medic 4 Alpha and Medic 4 Bravo “4 MEDIC 4A”; “4 MEDIC 4B”

These are Huber Heights Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroups.

Channel 12: Medic 4 Charlie “4 MEDIC 4C”

This is a Vandalia Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 13: Huber Heights Dispatch “4 HUBER FD”

This is the Huber Heights Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 14: Vandalia Dispatch “4 VAND FD”

This is the Vandalia Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 15: County-wide Public Safety Backup “4 CW PS BU”

ZONE 5

This Zone contains Talkgroups utilized by the Regional Dispatch Center for communications with the Dayton Fire Department and Dayton Airport Fire Department. Zone 5 also contains a backup Dayton Dispatch Talkgroup, which is on the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System.

CH	ZONE 5
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 52*
3	Operations 53*
4	Operations 54*
5	Operations 55*
6	Operations 56*
7	Operations 57*
8	Operations 58*
9	Operations 59*
10	Medic 5 Alpha*
11	Medic 5 Bravo*
12	Medic 5 Charlie*
13	Dayton FD Disp*
14	Airport FD (DOA)*
15	DFD MC800
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 7: Operations 52 thru 57 “5 OPS 52”; “5 OPS 53”; “5 OPS 54”; “5 OPS 55”; “5 OPS 56”; “5 OPS 57”

These are Regional Dispatch – Fire Operations Talkgroups specifically for the Dayton Fire Department.

Channels 8 and 9: Operations 58 and 59 “5 OPS 58”; “5 OPS 59”

These are expansion and overflow Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channel 10 thru 12: Medic 5 Alpha, Bravo, & Charlie “5 MEDIC 5A”; “5 MEDIC 5B”; “5 MEDIC 5C”

These are Regional Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroups specifically for the Dayton Fire Department.

Channel 13: Dayton Dispatch “5 DAYTON FD”

This is the Dayton Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 15: Airport Fire “5 AIRPORT FD”

This is the Airport Fire Operational Talkgroup.

Channel 15: Dayton Fire Dispatch Backup “5 DFD BU”

This is the Dayton Fire Dispatch Backup talkgroup on the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System.

ZONE 6

This Zone contains Talkgroups utilized by the Kettering, Oakwood, and Vandalia Dispatch Centers.

CH	ZONE 6
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 62
3	Operations 63
4	Operations 64 *
5	Operations 65 *
6	Operations 66
7	Operations 67
8	Operations 68
9	Operations 69
10	Medic 6 Alpha
11	Medic 6 Bravo
12	Medic 6 Charlie
13	Kettering FD Disp
14	Oakwood FD Disp *
15	Wash Twp FD Disp
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 and 3: Operations 62 and 63 “6 OPS 62”; “6 OPS 63”;

These are Kettering Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 4 and 5: Operations 64 and 65 “6 OPS 64”; “6 OPS 65”

These are Oakwood Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 6 and 7: Operations 66 and 67 “6 OPS 66”; “6 OPS 67”

These are Washington Township Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 8 and 9: Operations 68 and 69 “6 OPS 68”; “6 OPS 69”

These are expansion and overflow Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channel 10: Medic 6 Alpha “6 MEDIC 6A”;

This is a Kettering Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 11: Medic 6 Bravo “6 MEDIC 4B”

This is an Oakwood Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 12: Medic 6 Charlie “6 MEDIC 6C”

This is a Washington Township Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 13: Kettering Dispatch “6 KETT FD”

This is the Kettering Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 14: Oakwood Dispatch “6 OAKWOOD FD”

This is the Oakwood Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 15: Washington Township Dispatch “6 WASH T FD”

This is the Washington Township Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

ZONE 7

This Zone contains Talkgroups utilized by the Englewood, Moraine, and West Carrollton Dispatch Centers.

CH	ZONE 7
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 72
3	Operations 73
4	Operations 74
5	Operations 75
6	Operations 76
7	Operations 77
8	Operations 78
9	Operations 79
10	Medic 7 Alpha
11	Medic 7 Bravo
12	Medic 7 Charlie
13	Englewood FD Disp
14	Moraine FD Disp
15	W Carrol FD Disp
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 5: Operations 72 thru 75 “7 OPS 72”; “7 OPS 73”; “7 OPS 74”; “7 OPS 75”

These are Englewood Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 6 and 7: Operations 76 and 77 “7 OPS 76”; “7 OPS 77”

These are Moraine Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 8 and 9: Operations 78 and 79 “7 OPS 78”; “7 OPS 79”

These are West Carrollton Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channel 10: Medic 7 Alpha “7 MEDIC 7A”;

This is an Englewood Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 11: Medic 7 Bravo “7 MEDIC 7B”

This is a Moraine Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 12: Medic 7 Charlie “7 MEDIC 7C”

This is a West Carrollton Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroup.

Channel 13: Englewood Dispatch “7 ENGLWD FD”

This is the Englewood Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 14: Moraine Dispatch “7 MORaine FD”

This is the Moraine Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 15: West Carrollton Dispatch “7 W C FD”

This is the West Carrollton Fire Dispatch Talkgroup.

ZONE 8

This Zone contains Talkgroups utilized by the Regional Dispatch Center for communications with all Fire and EMS agencies dispatched out of the Regional Dispatch Center. Zone 8 also contains a backup Regional Dispatch Talkgroup, which is on the Dayton Trunked Radio System.

CH	ZONE 8
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 82
3	Operations 83
4	Operations 84
5	Operations 85
6	Operations 86
7	Operations 87
8	Operations 88
9	Operations 89
10	Medic 8 Alpha
11	Medic 8 Bravo
12	Medic 8 Charlie
13	County RDC 1
14	County RDC 2
15	RDC DAY800*
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 7: Operations 82 thru 87 “8 OPS 82”; “8 OPS 83”; “8 OPS 84”; “8 OPS 85”; “8 OPS 86”; “8 OPS 87”

These are Regional Dispatch - Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channels 8 and 9: Operations 88 and 89 “8 OPS 88”; “8 OPS 89”

These are expansion and overflow Fire Operations Talkgroups.

Channel 10 thru 12: Medic 8 Alpha, Bravo, & Charlie “8 MEDIC 8A”; “8 MEDIC 8B”; “8 MEDIC 8C”

These are Regional Dispatch – EMS/Medical Talkgroups.

Channel 13: Regional Dispatch 1 “8 COUNTY FD1”

This is the primary Regional Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 14: Regional Dispatch 2 “8 COUNTY FD2”

This is an expansion Regional Dispatch Talkgroup.

Channel 15: Regional Fire Dispatch Backup “8 CO FD BU”

This is the Regional Fire Dispatch Backup talkgroup on the Dayton Trunked Radio System.

ZONE 9

Known as the “Interoperability Zone”, Zone 9 is home to several talkgroups intended to provide communication options between Fire and Law Enforcement, 800MHz radios not on the Montgomery County or Dayton systems, and VHF radios.

	INTEROP
CH	ZONE 9
1	FIRE DISP
2	LE 1
3	LE 2
4	LE 3
5	LE 4
6	I-OP 1
7	I-OP 2
8	I-OP 3
9	I-OP 4
10	COMMON
11	8 CALL 90+
12	8 TAC 91+
13	8 TAC 92+
14	8 TAC 93+
15	8 TAC 94+
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 5: LE 1 thru LE 4 “9 LE 1”; “9 LE 2”; “9 LE 3”; “9 LE 4”

These are regional talkgroups for communications between Fire and Law Enforcement.

Channels 6 - 9: Interoperability 1 thru 4 “9 I OP 1”; “9 I OP 2”; “9 I OP 3”; “9 I OP 4”

These are regional talkgroups for communications between any agencies with radios on the Montgomery County or Dayton Trunked Radio Systems.

Channel 10: County Common “9 COMMON”

This talkgroup is a patch between a VHF frequency and the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System. Provided the VHF radio user is close enough to an input repeater, a VHF radio programmed to transmit on 158.775 (151.4pl) and receive on 153.740 will be able to communicate with a trunked radio on COMMON.

Channel 11: Interoperability Call “9 8CALL90”

This is a common talkgroup for public safety agencies nationwide. The name “8CALL90” is the nationally assigned name for this frequency per the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) Version 1.3, May 2009.

Channel 12 - 15: Interoperability TAC 1 thru 4 “9 8TAC91”; “9 8TAC92”; “9 8TAC93”; “9 8TAC94”

These are talkgroups for public safety agencies nationwide. These names are nationally assigned names for these frequencies.

ZONE 10

Zone 10 contains Talkgroups for communicating with neighboring counties and local and state resources.

CH	REGIONAL ZONE 10
1	FIRE DISP
2	Operations 102
3	Operations 103
4	Operations 104
5	Operations 105
6	Operations 106
7	MUTUAL AID
8	R3 RST
9	MCOEM
10	CORONER
11	MARCS SO57
12	MARCS SELECT
13	UHF
14	REGROUP (MC)
15	REGROUP (DAY)*
16	FD Simplex+

Channels 2 - 6: Ops 102 thru 106 “10 OPS 102”; “10 OPS 103”; “10 OPS 104”; “10 OPS 105”; “10 OPS 106”;

These are regionally available Operations Talkgroups for communications with radio systems in the counties that border Montgomery. All adjoining counties will have Ops 106 – it is the overflow talkgroup for adjoining counties. Ops 102 is for the counties to the North (Darke & Miami); Ops 103 is for the counties East (Clark & Greene); Ops 104 for the counties South (Warren & Butler); and Ops 105 for the county West (Preble).

These talkgroups have been placed in the template for the of patching to other county’s radio systems – it is important to note this will only work as designed if a neighboring county dispatch has the capability to access the Montgomery County system and patch it to some talkgroup within their system. Currently, Warren, Butler, and Miami have the capabilities to do this. Beaver Creek FD has the capability to do this only from the field (a patch set up in their command vehicles), but anticipates the ability to do this in their Dispatch Center in the near future.

Channel 9: Mont. Co. Office of Emergency Management “10 MCOEM”

This is the primary talkgroup of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management.

Channel 10: Montg. County Coroner “10 CORONER”

This is a talkgroup of the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office.

Channel 11 and 12: MARCS SO57 and MARCS Select “10 MARCS SO57”; “10 MARCS SEL”

Similar to Operations 102, this talkgroup allows users of the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System to be patched with radios on the State of Ohio’s MARCS System. MARCS SO57 is available for Fire and Law Enforcement needs. MARCS Select is intended for communications with nearly any user on the MARCS system. See section on MARCS below.

Channel 13: UHF “10 UHF”

This talkgroup allows users on the Montgomery County Trunked Radio System to communicate with UHF radios via a patch. Existence of this talkgroup permits assignment of a patch from the Montgomery County TRS to a UHF system in the region. Currently no such patch exists, but placement of this talkgroup in the template permits its future use.

Channel 14 and 15: Regroup Montg. Co. and Regroup Day “10 REGRP MC”; “10 REGRP DAY”

These talkgroup positions enable a “regrouping” function. This may be used to give a radio temporary access to a talkgroup not in the radio, or load an entire set of temporary talkgroups. These two talkgroups must be in the radio to allow temporary reprogramming “on the fly.” This also permits complete deactivation should a radio be lost or stolen.

MARCS TALKGROUPS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY PLAN (MVFEA)

The Fire Interoperability Template includes two MARCS talkgroups in Zone 10 (MARCS SO57 and MARCS SEL). Both access the State of Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) using a radio transceiver at the Regional Dispatch Center to patch one of our talkgroups to a MARCS talkgroup.

USE OF MARCS SO57

The patch radio for MARCS SO57 is normally left on the MARCS SO57 talkgroup. It is monitored by the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center, and can be used by any agency in the state to contact the RDC, including all agencies using the Montgomery County Fire Interoperability Template.

USE OF MARCS SEL TALKGROUPS

MARCS SEL is selectable for any of the following eight talkgroups:

- MCALL1
- MCOMM1
- ECOMM7
- ECOMM8
- ECOMM9
- ECOMM10
- ECOMM20
- ECOMM23

All eight MARCS talkgroups accessible through our MARCS SEL are available on all MARCS radios in Ohio Homeland Security Region 3. That means you can use this talkgroup for communications with diverse users, including hospitals, public health agencies, emergency management agencies, and others.

The default talkgroup for MARCS SEL is MCALL1. You can use this to contact ODNR's Central Dispatch (see MCALL1, below), and request assignment of one of the ECOMM talkgroups. You would then have RDC switch MARCS SEL to that ECOMM, and have all agencies with MARCS also go that ECOMM to provide interoperable communications.

However, our MARCS SEL does not include the different talkgroups monitored by each of those agencies, similar to the way the RDC monitors SO57. That means you will have initially contact the agencies involved in some other matter. Once those agencies have switched to the talkgroup in use for the incident, e.g., ECOMM8, the IC, communications leader, or a branch director or group supervisor will be able to coordinate many different providers or responders on a single talkgroup, in a manner never available to us before.

Here are the intended uses for each of the eight talkgroups usable by MARCS SEL:

MCALL1 is the MARCS “Hailing Channel” for our area. MARCS MCALL talkgroups allow any user to call for help from anywhere in the state. These talkgroups are monitored 24/7 by all OSHP Posts within the physical limits of each Zone. MCALL is also monitored 24/7 by ODNR’s Columbus Central Dispatch and county sheriff offices within the MCALL 1 zone. When using MCALL, it is preferred the call be directed to the zone the call originates from, but is not required. Note that Greene County is not in our MARCS zone. The OSHP Post in Greene County does not monitor MCALL1.

An incident commander (IC) at the site of an emergency can use MCALL1 to hail ODNR and request ECOMM talkgroups for emergency communication coordination. The IC can also request that the RDC make that contact.

MCOMM1 is a generic talkgroup for any user to be able to talk to any other user. These talkgroups are also monitored by MARCS base locations. While each MCOMM has statewide capability, the theoretical purpose is for “direct” communications in each geographic zone. Remember that when going through the MARCS-SEL patch, you must be in the coverage range of the Montgomery County Radio System.

ECOMM7 through ECOMM10 are MARCS generic statewide “emergency” talkgroups. ECOMMs are used to talk to any other user when involved in a state-coordinated emergency. At a multi-agency scene, the Incident Command/Communications/Control would steer responders to these talkgroups, based on functional work groups. For example, a MARCS-equipped IC would direct “All incoming traffic units go to ECOMM9; all incoming rescue units go to ECOMM10; all incoming hot zone units go to ECOMM 8,” etc. In other words, ECOMM talkgroups are assigned by an incident commander for tactical use.

ECOMM is available for all agencies using the MARCS communication system. However, you or the RDC must contact the ODNR (or OSHP) to be assigned available ECOMM TGs. This way, you can avoid using the same talkgroups during separate emergencies.

ECOMM20 is designated for contacting Central Dispatch under the Ohio Fire Emergency Response Plan.

ECOMM 23 is one of the ECOMMs designed for homeland security incident coordination. The Ohio Homeland Security Planning regions are assigned ECOMM 21-28. MARCS-SEL includes ECOMM23, assigned to Homeland Security Region 3 (West Central Ohio), which covers Montgomery, Preble, Miami, Greene, Darke, Clark, Shelby, and Champaign Counties

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER MAY REQUEST ECOMM TALKGROUPS BY CONTACTING ODNR CENTRAL DISPATCH THROUGH THE MCALL1 TALKGROUP.

Steps for Use of MARCS-SEL

1. Determine interoperable need.

2. Have Dispatch, Comm Officer, or other delegate request an ECOMM TG from ODNR, using either MCALL1 or 866-OH-MARCS (866-646-2727)
 - **Be prepared to give name and phone number, as well as an estimate of how long ECOMM will be in use (hours, days, week, etc.), and authority for request (IC).**
3. Ask for ECOMM to be assigned, but only accept ECOMM7, 8, 9, 10, 20, or 23 (only ECOMMs in MARCS-SEL)
4. Once an ECOMM TG has been assigned, have RDC switch the MARCS-SEL patch radio to that ECOMM
5. Notify all involved agencies using MARCS Radios of the ECOMM being used, and all agencies using Montgomery Fire/EMS Template radios to use MARCS-SEL (Zone 10, Position 12).
6. Use that ECOMM for all appropriate communications relevant to incident
 - a. Other TGs may also continue to be used at IC discretion
7. When the ECOMM is no longer required, notify ODNR

APPENDIX B

REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO TEMPLATE TABLE

All zones will have the agencies home dispatch talkgroup in position 1 of each zone and the simplex channel (FD or PD) in position 16 (last position on the dial) of each zone. This is purposely designed this way so the user can easily find their home dispatch talkgroup or the simplex channel during emergency situations.

Zone 3 is designated as the interoperable zone while all other zones are reserved for user defined talkgroups. Agencies using Model II or III radios will have additional talkgroup space for more user-defined talkgroups in Zones 4 through 10.

Reference the following table for an explanation of the talkgroups and their purpose contained in Zone 3.

	User Define	User Define	Interop
Ch	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
1	Home Disp	Home Disp	Home Disp
2	USER - DEFINED	USER - DEFINED	LE1
3			LE 2
4			LE 3
5			LE 4
6			I-OP1
7			I-OP2
8			I-OP3
9			I-OP4
10			Common
11			8CALL90
12			8TAC91
13			8TAC92
14			8TAC93
15			8TAC94

1	PD	PD	PD
6	SIMPLEX	SIMPLEX	SIMPLEX

ZONE 3 EXPLANATION:

Zone 3: Interoperable Zone

This zone is designated with 9 interoperable talkgroups for Montgomery county agencies, as well as 5 conventional channels for extended interoperability. Talkgroups and channels are designated as follows:

Interop
Zone 3
Home Dispatch talkgroup
LE1 – Law Enforcement 1 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD and PD agencies
LE 2 - Law Enforcement 2 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD and PD agencies
LE 3 - Law Enforcement 3 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD and PD agencies
LE 4 - Law Enforcement 4 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD and PD agencies
I-OP1 – Operations 1 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD, PD and Support agencies
I-OP2 - Operations 2 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD, PD and Support agencies
I-OP3 - Operations 3 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD, PD and Support agencies
I-OP4 - Operations 4 – Shared talkgroup with all participating FD, PD and Support agencies
Common – Montgomery County Common – Common to all 800 MHz users, includes an 800 MHz to VHF permanent patch. VHF users must program their radios to gain access to this patch)
8CALL90 – calling channel for the 800MHz national mutual aid channel – Conventional channel –
8TAC91 – Tac 1 channel for the 800MHz national mutual aid channel – Conventional channel –
8TAC92 - Tac 2 channel for the 800MHz national mutual aid channel – Conventional channel –
8TAC93 - Tac 3 channel for the 800MHz national mutual aid channel – Conventional channel –
8TAC94 - Tac 4 channel for the 800MHz national mutual aid channel – Conventional channel –
PD SIMPLEX