



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

ISICS Standard: Statewide Wide Area Talkgroup Access and Management	Standard #:	3.5.0
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1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to provide radio connectivity throughout the ISICS system while minimizing roaming and excess system loading.

2. Technical Background

- **Capabilities**

On the ISICS platform, it is possible to allow all radios and talkgroups to operate and “roam” throughout the system. It is also possible to restrict radios and/or talkgroups from operating on particular sites and sub-systems. It is also possible for users to leave one or more radios selected to an interoperability talkgroup on a long-term basis solely for the purpose of monitoring. This is commonly referred to as “parking on the talkgroup” and will unnecessarily consume system capacity.

For a radio to access a radio frequency (RF) site, it is an “AND” relationship between the Radio User Site Access Profile and the Talkgroup Site Access Profile. Typically, agencies set their radio access to all sites and manage the access through the Talkgroup Access Profiles.

The System is capable of “Requested Site” where a talkgroup is pushed or “forced” to a site regardless of the radio affiliations at the site. This consumes capacity and should be minimally used. This use requires special authorization.

- **Constraints**

Sites and subsystems can only support a specific number of concurrent, active talkgroups. It is possible that a large number of “roaming” or other talkgroups with busy traffic could overload a site or sub-system. Similarly, users switching to an interoperability talkgroup during an emergency incident they are not assigned, solely to monitor the incident, will unnecessarily consume system capacity.

The site access rules are implemented from the Core. If the site loses connectivity with the Core, the rules are suspended until connectivity is restored.

3. Operational Context

System functionality must be maintained by ensuring that only talkgroups and users with a legitimate operational need are allowed access on a site or subsystem.

To prevent overloading of sites and subsystems from distant, unrelated incidents, it is recommended that users not channel-select region wide and statewide interoperability talkgroups to monitor activities they are not assigned to. This recommendation does not restrict the scanning of regional and statewide talkgroups while radios are channel-selected on their local talkgroups.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

Approved statewide talkgroups would be allowed access to all sites and subsystems.

Talkgroups will be limited to the required transmission area as determined by agency operational need. Regional talkgroups will be allowed on all sites and subsystems within the region, as well as sites and subsystems directly adjacent to the region.

Statewide Roaming-Only Talkgroups:

Special roaming-only talkgroups can be assigned for use only for communicating while roaming outside a standard coverage area in special circumstances. Standard operational and tactical radio traffic would not be allowed on these talkgroups. These talkgroups would not be permitted to be patched. Refer to ISICS Standard 1.5.1 Transport and Travel Interoperability.

Statewide Tactical Talkgroups:

Special tactical talkgroups for statewide use by agencies that require operations outside their home area can be assigned. These talkgroups shall not be patched except for special circumstances. (Examples would be regional drug task force or statewide SWAT team talkgroups).

5. Recommended Procedure

- **Statewide Access:**

Level 2, 3, or 4 approved ISICS users may request a local statewide roaming operational talkgroup to be allowed on all ISICS sites and systems and utilized based on ISICS Standard 1.5.1 Transport and Travel Interoperability.

In an emergency, a subsystem administrator, Communications Unit Leader (COML) or Communications Unit Technician (COMT) may request the System Administrator or designee to temporarily allow a talkgroup statewide access. The System Administrator or designee will notify and obtain concurrence from one of the following individuals, in the order indicated, prior to implementing the emergency access: Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) or ISICSB Chair. If both the SWIC and ISICSB Chair cannot be contacted, the System Administrator may honor the request and notify the SWIC as soon as possible. The temporary access may be granted for up to 14 days.

- **Adjacent Site Access:**

Talkgroups will be allowed on sites and subsystems that are within, and directly adjacent to, the talkgroup owner's agency response/service area.

The agency responsible for these talkgroups shall ensure that all radios programmed with the talkgroup have site preferences programmed to minimize traffic on the adjacent sites with talkgroup access. The agency responsible for these talkgroups will notify an appropriate adjacent site's system owner before adding the talkgroup to the adjacent site. The agency responsible for the talkgroups will work with an appropriate adjacent site's system owner to correct excessive traffic to the adjacent site.

- **Requested Site Access:**

This capability of this shared system should be used collectively to conserve resources with each agency only using the minimum number of talkgroups and sites required.

Agencies may use the Requested Site function on sites with permission from local owners and the ISICSB.

If site loading becomes an issue, any requested traffic at the site will have to be reviewed and possibly removed, or additional channel capacity can be added to the site. For the purpose of channel loading discussions, ownership is recognized by the agencies that have provided that channel capacity.

- **Radio User Initiated System Loading:**

If radio system user(s) "parking on a talkgroup" or switching to an interoperability talkgroup during an incident they are not assigned to is causing unnecessary or excessive loading conditions on a site or subsystem, a subsystem administrator or the System Administrator may immediately choose to shed load by contacting the radio user(s) violating this practice and request them to move off the selected talkgroup.

If the user causing unnecessary or excessive loading cannot be reached by telephone or by calling them on the selected talkgroup, or if they are unwilling to move from the talkgroup, the subsystem administrator or System Administrator may contact the local subsystem administrator having security rights for the radio causing the issue and may request the radio be Dynamically Regrouped or Selectively Inhibited to remove the traffic load from the subsystem. A radio that is Dynamically Regrouped shall only be regrouped to the user's main dispatch talkgroup or other primary talkgroup. Dynamic

Regrouping and Selectively Inhibiting a radio without the user's consent, due to a violation of this standard, should only be done as a last resort.

6. Management

If system loading becomes a problem at any site, it should be controlled at the local level. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, it will be brought forth to the Operations and Technology Committees who may recommend procedural solutions or bring the matter to the ISICSB.

The System Administrator will provide periodic system usage and loading reports to the Subsystem Administrators and the ISICSB so system traffic patterns can be reviewed, and required corrections made.