

Title: Managing Talkgroups – AIRS Usage Procedure

Index: 204-J

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Owner: Operations Working Group (OWG)

1. Purpose

- a. The purpose of this procedure is to explain the rules and procedures related to the use of the Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) channels programmed into radios on the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN)

2. Background

- a. The Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) is a suite of full-time, cross-banded mutual aid channels designed to provide interoperable communications capability to first responders of police, fire, and EMS agencies, as well as other personnel of municipal, county, state, tribal, federal agencies and approved non-governmental organizations (NGO's) performing public safety activities. This system operates on designated interoperability frequencies in the VHF, UHF and 800 MHz bands
- b. PCWIN has entered into an MOU with the State of Arizona in order to operate the available AIRS channels. Channel users are required to be familiar with and comply with the Standard Operating Procedures for AIRS

3. Procedure Statement

- a. The following list is a summary of the basic understandings and agreements for AIRS usage:
 - i. AZDPS will:
 1. Manage and maintain proper license for the use of the mutual aid channels identified herein
 2. Manage and maintain an accurate database of federal and state agencies and local government users that have accepted and signed this MOU
 3. Issue updates and revisions to the Arizona mutual aid channel plan upon request by the Arizona Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
 - ii. Users will:
 1. Participate in regional and statewide communications planning and exercises that support improved mutual aid operations through the use of radio communications
 2. Manage the use of mutual aid channels by its employees, ensuring compliance with the AIRS State Plan and federal/state/local laws, ordinances, and rules

3. Use the mutual aid channels hereby authorized for the intended purpose of coordination between emergency response agencies and resources. Such coordination may occur during interagency operations, en route travel, or on-incident
 4. Use the mutual aid channels for operational and en route communications in accordance with local and regional policies and procedures
 5. Use the interoperability frequencies for on-incident communications in accordance with the Incident Communications Plan established by the on-scene Commander
 6. Ensure that appropriate mutual aid calling channels are monitored at dispatch centers identified in a regional communications plan. As an example, monitoring may include, at a minimum:
 - a. UHF/VHF AIRS Calling Channel
 - b. 800 MHz I-Call Channel
- iii. The parties mutually agree:
1. User and AZDPS agree their mutual interest will be furthered by continued coordination between the User and the Arizona Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
 2. User and AZDPS agree this MOU may be cancelled at any time, by written notice to the other party, or by subsequent agreements
- b. Those agencies already possessing an MOU with the State are encouraged to maintain the MOU and forward a copy to the PCWIN Executive Director for tracking.
- c. Each PCWIN agency participating on the AIRS channels shall familiarize themselves with the operating procedures and instructions
- i. AIRS SOP http://www.azpsic.gov/library/airs/Arizona_AIRS_SOP_01112012.pdf

4. Applies to

- a. All PCWIN members and participants

5. Supporting Rules

- a. Managing Talkgroups – Ownership and Assignment
- b. Managing Talkgroups – Plan Approval
- c. Configuration Management of Radio Programming Files Policy

6. Conditions for Exemption or Waiver

- a. None