



Policy 18-13

June 8, 2017

Cancels:
ECC Policy #17-13

Scene of Action Interoperability Talkgroups

I. PURPOSE

This document sets forth the policies governing the use of Scene-of-Action (SOA) encrypted talkgroups and provides the standards, protocols, procedures, and operating parameters on the St. Louis Area Trunked Emergency Radio (SLATER) system as provided by the St Louis County Emergency Communications Commission (ECC).

II. GENERAL

Every mobile and portable radio utilized on the SLATER system will have access to both receive and transmit on the SOA encrypted interoperability talkgroups. SOA talkgroups are not monitored by any PSAP but are recorded.

III. POLICY

- A. All mobile and portable radios used on the system will comply with the ECC policy 05-03 (Subscriber Radio Features Policy) dated November 12, 2015. This policy specifies which radios are acceptable for use on the SLATER system. Only SLATER approved radios may be used to transmit on SOA talkgroups. SOA talkgroups allow the ability to communicate on scene across and within disciplines on the SLATER system.

- B. There are two county wide interoperability SOA talkgroups, divided north and south by Page Avenue. The two SOA talkgroups are used in encryption mode only.
- C. SOA Talkgroups are used to quickly communicate between disciplines when the use of an I/O or other talkgroup is not necessary. To establish clear communication between disciplines, it is recommended only plain language should be used to communicate on SOA talkgroups. The use of "10 Codes" or similar codes is acceptable when communicating within the same agency.
- D. System users who encounter **life-threatening/time-sensitive emergency situations which require immediate response** via radio will need to switch to the PSAP main dispatch channel of their jurisdiction, or to the jurisdiction where the incident is taking place, in order to make notification of the situation and/or advise of the circumstances.
- E. When utilizing this talkgroup, personnel shall identify themselves by the agency name, discipline, and the marked number of the vehicle, equipment or apparatus they are operating, or their law enforcement call sign, e.g. "Bridgeton Police 305" or "Frontenac Fire 2914".

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Unit-to-unit communications using the SOA talkgroup may be initiated when necessary. The PSAPs will not assign each SOA talkgroup for use.
- B. Should contact need to be initiated, personnel shall begin the radio transmission with the agency name, discipline, and the marked number of the vehicle, equipment, or apparatus which they wish to contact, or the law enforcement call sign of the user they wish to contact, e.g. "Eureka Fire 2412" or "Ballwin Police 317". Immediately following, the initiating unit will identify who they are, e.g. "Affton Fire 1117" or "St. Louis County Police 1302". The completed contact would be: "Eureka Fire 2412 from St. Louis County Police 3706."
- C. If the initiating unit does not know the specific unit on scene, they may attempt to contact that unit as outlined in the following examples: "Town and Country Police on westbound Clayton Road near Des Peres from St. Louis County Police 7580" or "Monarch Fire unit on Clarkson at Baxter from Chesterfield Police 5C13."
- D. Permitted Use
 - 1. The SOA talkgroup may be used for the following purpose:

- a. Quick or immediate communicating between different disciplines while on scene of a small scale event (such as a traffic crash, MODOT motorist assist, or medical call).
 - b. Quick or immediate communication between individual users of the same discipline to quickly coordinate a response to an event or disseminate information between users (i.e. Car-to-Car communication).
 - c. Immediate communicating between different disciplines while on scene of a large scale event.
 - i. Code 1000 or Aid Calls;
 - ii. Tactical calls; and
 - iii. Major fires.
2. The SOA talkgroup shall not be used for the following purposes:
- a. Surveillances;
 - b. Check points or other planned traffic-related activities;
 - c. Funerals, parades, or other processions;
 - d. Non-essential radio traffic;

V. MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

This policy is covered under the MOU signed previously by each public safety user and outside agency user on the SLATER system.

Approved by the Emergency Communications Commission on APRIL 12, 2018



Director,
Emergency Communications Network



Chairman,
Emergency Communications Commission