

Metro Region ARMER Standards

Section 3 – Metro 3.35.0 National Weather Service ARMER Radio Operations

Date Established 2-3-10
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1. Purpose or Objective

To define the ARMER talk groups and establish policy and procedures of radios to be used by the National Weather Service (NWS) Chanhassen office (Chanhassen Weather) and establish a Warning Point Net (Minnesota State Patrol) - Metro Communications Center) during weather events.

2. Technical Background

- Capabilities

To provide talk groups that are readily available tools for use by Chanhassen Weather to communicate with numerous Warning Points (PSAP, Dispatch Center, EOC or other designated location) across the ten-county metro region and optionally other counties within the Chanhassen Weather County Warning Area (CWA) during severe weather events or other emergency incidents where the weather service's aid may be requested. The Statewide Emergency Communications Board has authorized a dedicated talk group for Chanhassen Weather, named US-NWS CHN. This is the resource Chanhassen Weather will use to distribute weather event information. PSAPs may choose to add this resource to their consoles or monitor on a separate ARMER Radio. Chanhassen Weather is authorized to use the statewide resources of STAC1-12 and the metro region resources of ME TAC 1-10 as directed by the Warning Point Net. The regional talkgroup METEM is also programmed in the radios for communications with regional and local Emergency Managers as stated in Metro Standard 3.28.0 – Use of Metro Emergency Management Talk Group – METEM.

- Constraints

Chanhassen Weather has been issued three handheld portable and one control station transceivers. These units will primarily be used to monitor selected talk groups when invited to do so by a Warning Point or Emergency Manager as a result of severe weather or other emergency incident. This Standard does not limit the use of other ARMER resources and/or radios for other authorized purposes by Chanhassen Weather.

3. Operational Context

For activations within the ten-county metropolitan region, Chanhassen Weather will hail the Metro Warning Point and the affected counties in the event of a severe weather warning. The Metro Warning Point will hail the affected PSAPs over the METCOM talk group and direct them to listen to the US-NWS CHN talkgroup for information on the weather. In the event of some other type of emergency incident that would require assistance from Chanhassen Weather, the agency requesting the assistance would contact Chanhassen Weather directly via a land line or via US-NWS CHN and direct them to the appropriate talkgroup resources for the incident.

- Chanhassen Weather will hail the affected PSAPs on the US-NWS CHN talk group.
- If the affected PSAP does not answer the hail, the State Patrol will hail the PSAP on METCOM and direct them to the US-NWS CHN talk group or a STAC or METAC.
- If the PSAP does not answer on METCOM, the State Patrol will contact the PSAP via landline.

4. Recommended Procedure

- Activation – Metro Warning Point

Chanhassen Weather will normally initiate weather warnings, via US-NWS CHN to the Metro Warning Point. The warning will also transfer from the NWS computers to National Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (NLETS), from there the BCA computers copies the notification over to Minnesota Justice Information Services (MNJIS) and is sent out to notify the affected area(s).

The Metro Warning Point will hail all of the Metro areas affected by the warnings over the METCOM talkgroup and direct them to the US-NWS CHN talkgroup for further detailed information. PSAPs that do not respond to the hail will be contacted via land line by the Metro Warning Point and directed to listen to the US-NWS CHN talkgroup. US-NWS CHN talkgroup will be used for any information exchange between the affected centers and the National Weather Service, such as severe weather reports, including sightings of tornadoes. This communication should be limited to updates to/from Warning Points **only**. This is not for individual field spotters. As the threat expires for each Warning Point's area, the center can choose to turn down the volume on the US-NWS CHN talkgroup on their own. Any new weather threats that occur after existing threats have expired will be handled in the same manner described above.

5. Management

State Patrol Warning Points shall manage assignment and usage of talk groups for Warning Point Net activations. Dispatch center managers and supervisors in the metro region shall ensure adherence to this procedure for usage and assignment of ME TAC or STAC talkgroups.