

APPENDIX 2 – DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

METRO REGION 800 MHz Trunked Regional Public Safety Radio System Standards, Protocols, Procedures

Document Section:	Appendices	Radio TOC Recommendation:
Sub-Section:	METRO Appendix 2	Date: 5/24/01
Procedure Title:	DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS	
Date Established:	12/17/00	MESB Approval - Signature:
Replaces Document Dated:	5/24/01	Date:
Date Revised:	2/25/09	

1. Purpose or Objective

To clarify terms used throughout the standards, protocols and procedures manual. All definitions will be found in this section and will also be footnoted on the first page in which they appear within the section in which they are used.

2. Management

Should there be additions, deletions, or changes to these procedures the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board staff are responsible for revising this section.

3. DEFINITIONS (in alphabetical order)

“Common” , “Pool” or “TACTical” Talk Groups Common/ pooled talk groups (TG) are those that are set-aside for communicating across multiple agencies. Agency radio users in appropriate service areas who need to talk to one another for day to day business or for mutual aid will all put the appropriate common or pool talk group in their radios to be available in time of need. Example: Fire Departments will all have the common Statewide Fire Mutual Aid TG in their radios. “Pool” is distinguished from “common” in that pool implies more than one, such as RTAC 1- 4 is a *pool of common* regional tactical TGs for law enforcement.

Backbone System A statewide public safety radio communication system that consists of a shared infrastructure, the elements of which are identified in the STATE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

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Control Station (Consolette)

A fixed radio station that may or may not interact with radios, remotes or desktops.

Critical Operations

-Agency Critical Operations

Those governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental operations by authorized users which are reliant upon a functioning two-way radio communications system which unavailability, degradation, delay or failure, partial or complete, would significantly impact or impair the successful operation of the Agency.

- Does not meet the definition of Mission Critical criteria above.
- Significantly impacts or impairs the Department / Agencies ability to operate in an effective and efficient manner to provide continuous, accurate and reliable services to its clients.
- Significant internal disruption to the agency.
- Public convenience.
- Significant disruption to ongoing operational budget.

-Mission Critical Operations

Those governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental operations carried out by Authorized Users which are reliant upon a functioning two-way radio communications system which unavailability, degradation, delay or failure, partial or complete, would significantly impact and/or impair the successful delivery of a vital service or mission. Operations would include, but are not limited to the categories below:

Public Safety

Those functions of government that exist to protect the physical well being of the public as a whole from physical danger - continuous delivery of essential public services.

Public Health

Those functions of the government that exist to protect longevity of life and quality of life for the public as a whole - continuous delivery of essential public health services.

Law & Justice

Those functions of government that exist to prevent violations of the laws and rules of society by individuals and groups.

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Transportation

Those functions of the government that exist to provide safe, effective and efficient multi-modal movement of the public and commodities including public roads, highways, waterways, railways, airways and public transportation systems.

Environmental Protection

Those functions of the government that exist to protect the environment from changes that are detrimental to the existence and continuance of that environment.

Human Services

Those functions of the government that exist to provide for individuals that are physically, emotionally, financially, academically, intellectually disadvantaged when compared to established social norms. Loss of these services would significantly impair individual's ability to function or operate in society.

When such operational impairments have the effect of:

- Posing significant risk to health and safety, loss of a vital service provided by an agency.
- Causing negative perceptions that have high Public Relations (P/R) impact or Media and Press impact, that would cause significant embarrassment to the agency.
- Directly affecting its command, control, dispatch and information systems and their effective and efficient functionality.
- Inflicting secondary effects upon a service's critical resources (financial, supply-chain, and response capability).
- Impeding the delivery or availability of an otherwise functioning vital system or service.

-Non-Critical Operations All other governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental operations, which are reliant upon a functioning two-way, radio communications that do not meet the above mission critical or department critical definitions.

Encryption

Digital encoding and decoding of audio (scrambling). If listening on a radio without encryption capabilities, no audio will be heard.

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Logging	Audio recording of a radio communication
Mobile Radio	Generally installed in a vehicle, intended to be used while in motion.
Patch	<u>Permanent (hard) Patch:</u> A patch between two or more audio resources on the system, which is fixed and cannot be controlled or edited by the dispatcher. <u>Manual (soft) Patch:</u> A patch between two or more audio resources on the system, which is setup and controlled by the dispatcher. The dispatcher owning the patch can add & delete resources as needed.
Portable Radio	A radio that is completely freestanding and may be hand-carried or worn by the radio user.
Public Safety	All Law Enforcement/Sheriff, Fire, Emergency Medical and related service areas. These include badged and/or sworn ancillary personnel such as Park Rangers, Court Security Officers, Community Corrections, and those who support public safety operations under special circumstances.
Public Service	Public Service in this context refers to general government personnel such as Public Works, Transportation, and other similar public service operations.
Regional System	In the context of these standards this term is intended to represent the metropolitan portion of the ARMER system.
Simulcast Cluster	A group of radio frequency (RF) sites that function as a single site in transmit and receive.

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Site	A group of individual radio tower stations in a simulcast cluster.
SOAs	Scene of Action Channels <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASOA – available for All users• FSOA – available for Fire users only• PSOA – available for Public Safety users only
System Management/ Administrative Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>System Manager</u> - individual in charge of the radio system of a participating agency▪ <u>System Administrators</u> – individual who is responsible for the day to day radio system operations of a participating agency▪ <u>Sub-System Administrators</u> - individual who is responsible for the day to day radio sub-system operations of a participating agency
Variance	An allowed divergence from full adherence of an adopted standard, protocol or procedure
Waiver	A complete release from an adopted standard, protocol or procedure

4. ACRONYMS (in alphabetical order)

ALS	Advanced Life Support
ARMER	Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response
ATAC	Regional All (user) Tactical talkgroup
AVL	Automatic Vehicle Locator
APCO	Associated Public Safety Communications Officials
BLS	Basic Life Support
CEB	Central Electronics Bank
CPS	Customer Programming Software
CTCSS	Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System
DIU	Digital Interface Unit

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DTMF	Dual Tone Multiple frequency
EMH	Emergency Medical Hospital
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
ETACs	EMS Tactical talkgroups
EMRS	Emergency Medical Radio Service
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FTACs	Fire Tactical talkgroups
ICALL	International 800 MHz Calling Channel, now called 8CALL90
ITAC	International 800 MHz Tactical Channels, now called 8TAC91-94
LESIU-TACs	Law Enforcement Encrypted Special Investigative Unit Tactical talkgroups (not allowed on consoles)
LETACs	Law Enforcement Encrypted Tactical talkgroups (allowed on consoles)
LTACs	Law Tactical talkgroups
MACs	Moves, additions and changes
MCI	Multiple Casualty Incident
MDH	MN Department of Health
MESB	Metropolitan Emergency Services Board
METCOM	Metropolitan region console to console talkgroup (not allowed in subscriber units)
METPH 1-4	Metropolitan region public health talkgroups

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METTAC-A	Metropolitan Tactical – All. A series of VHF conventional to 800 Tactical talk groups/ channels that can be used by all users.
METTAC-P	Metropolitan Tactical – Public Safety. A series of VHF conventional to 800 Tactical talk groups/ channels that can be used only by public safety radio users.
MIMS	Major Incident Management System
MINSEF	Minnesota State Emergency Frequency, now called VLAW31
MRCC	Medical Resource Control Center
MHz	Megahertz
NAEMSD	National Assn. of State EMS Directors
NPSPAC	National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
PTAC	Regional Public Safety Tactical talkgroup
PTT	Push to talk, i.e., talk button
RF	Radio Frequency
RSS	Radio Service Software
SEMTAC	Statewide Emergency Management Tactical talkgroup
SOA	Scene of Action - channels that are isolated from the central system
STACs	Statewide (All Users) Tactical talkgroups
TOC	Technical Operations Committee
UHF	Ultra High Frequency
VHF	Very High Frequency