

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP)
(Original issue, April 1, 2005)

Texas Department of Public Safety
and the identified *Federal Agency, State Agency, Local Jurisdiction, or Emergency Service Organization*

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes permissions and guidelines for use of interoperability or mutual aid radio channels by:

- Local government jurisdictions and their associated emergency response agencies;
- State agencies in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations;
- Federal agency local units in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations,
- Local agency units in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations to use designated Federal interoperability channels, and;
- Private sector emergency response organizations licensed or otherwise entitled to operate in the Public Safety Pool as defined in Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Rules, Part 90 (47CFR, subpart B, paragraphs 90.15-90.20).

It imposes certain protocols, procedures, and obligations upon jurisdictions hereby authorized to use state-licensed radio channels held by the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS).

This agreement supersedes any other previous versions of the MOU.

Authority

Execution of this agreement by state and local entities is authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 791 (local governments), Chapter 771 (state agencies), and Texas Government Code Chapter 421.096 (Interoperability of Radio Systems). This MOU satisfies FCC Part 90 rules for extending license privileges to others by agreement.

Federal agencies are permitted access to interoperability channels as authorized by the National Communications & Information Administration (NTIA) Manual, 47 CFR, Parts 2.102(c), 2.103; and 7.12. Federal agencies may execute this MOU and shall adhere to the attached guidelines.

Applicability

This MOU authorizes the use of certain radio frequencies by emergency response organizations as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications and the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Generally, this includes organizations in the following governmental disciplines:

**Emergency Management
Law Enforcement
Fire Service
Emergency Medical Services
Public Works / Transportation**

**Public Safety Communications
Public Health
Health Care
Hazardous Materials
Governmental Administration**

This MOU authorizes use of state-licensed frequencies for the purpose of coordination between emergency response agencies and resources. Such coordination may occur during interagency operations, en route travel, or on-incident communications in accordance with an Incident Communications Plan.

Background

The 77th Legislature, in an effort to provide for effective emergency radio communications by state agencies, called for an Interagency Radio Work Group (IRWG) to develop a state agency communications network. That group developed a preliminary plan that was accepted by the state IRWG and the Sheriffs' Association of Texas on March 27, 2001.

Subsequently, the IRWG determined that the state agency communications network should be expanded to include all public safety agencies in the state. This was accomplished by IRWG's development of the IRCIP of January, 2003.

In response to an FCC requirement for establishment of state / regional advisory committees, the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) and the Texas Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan Executive Committee (SEC) were formally established as advisory committees to TxDPS.

The Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP), developed by the TxICC and included in this MOU, provides essential guidance for interoperable radio communications using VHF, UHF, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, and mobile satellite radio equipment for interagency coordination, en route travel, or on-incident communications.

Understandings

TxDPS will:

- Manage and maintain proper licenses for the use of the interoperability frequencies identified herein;
- Manage and maintain an accurate database of federal and state agencies and local government jurisdictions that have accepted and signed this MOU, and;
- Issue updates and revisions to the TSICP contained herein, upon request by the TxICC and the Director of the TxDPS.

Jurisdiction will:

- Participate in regional communications planning (generally arranged by a regional Council of Governments) that provides for regional radio communications interoperability.
- Manage use of the interoperability frequencies by its employees, ensuring compliance with the TSICP and federal / state / local laws, ordinances, and rules.

- Use the interoperability frequencies authorized hereby for their intended purpose of coordination between emergency response agencies and resources. Such coordination may occur during interagency operations, en route travel, or at the scene of an incident.
- Use the interoperability frequencies for operational and en route communications in accordance with local and regional policies and procedures.
- Use the interoperability frequencies for on-incident communications in accordance with the Incident Communications Plan established by the on-scene Incident Commander.
- Prioritize use of the interoperability frequencies:
 1. Emergency or urgent operation involving imminent danger to life or property;
 2. Disaster or extreme emergency operation requiring extensive interoperability and inter-agency communications;
 3. Special event, generally of a pre-planned nature;
 4. Joint training exercises, and
 5. Inter-agency and en route communications.
- Implement radio communications procedures consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) including:
 - Use “plain language” without 10-codes or agency-specific codes/jargon;
 - Use the calling protocol: "Agency-Unit #, **this is** Agency-Unit #", rather than "Unit # **to** Unit #".

Examples: "**Bryan EMS 1605, this is Tyler Fire 2102**" or "**Incident Command, this is DPS 505**"

- Ensure that mobile, portable, and temporary base radios intended for use by agency leadership (officers) are configured with the appropriate in-band interoperability frequencies as found in the TSICP. This means that, as a minimum, the interoperable frequencies would be added to the day-to-day frequencies used by that entity.
- Ensure that interoperability calling channels are monitored at the Incident Command Post on major incidents requiring significant aid from agencies beyond routine local interoperability. Monitoring shall include one or more of the following:

CALLING CHANNEL NAME	USE
VCALL10	Analog VHF Calling Channel
UCALL40	Analog UHF Calling Channel
7CALL50	Digital P25 700 MHz Calling Channel
8CALL90	Analog National Calling Channel

Incident Command Post monitoring may be implemented using cross-band repeaters, communications operator console patching, or VHF/UHF/700/800 MHz fixed or mobile gateway.

It is suggested that the band-relevant interoperable call channel listed above be included in the 'home zone' used for day-to-day operations. This will enable radio users to easily turn to the interoperable channel on their mobile or portable radio when needed.

The parties mutually agree:

- Jurisdiction and TxDPS agree that their mutual interests will be furthered by continued coordination between the jurisdiction and the Office of the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC).
- Jurisdiction and TxDPS agree that this Memorandum of Understanding may be cancelled at any time, by written notice to the other party, or by subsequent agreements.
- Only one MOU per Jurisdiction or Governing Body is required to cover the departments and/or sub-agencies of each jurisdiction, as long as each department or sub-agency is listed on an accompanying attachment.

The attached *TSICP (Original Issue March 25, 2005)* is incorporated into this MOU in its entirety. The TSICP may be revised by TSICP Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and TxDPS as needed, and revisions will be provided to Jurisdictions by TxDPS.

Should Jurisdiction elect to withdraw from this MOU because of TSICP revisions, notice shall be given by mail to:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Public Safety Communications Service
5805 N. Lamar Boulevard
Austin, TX 78752

Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to 10th day of December, 2019. *Please complete, sign, scan, and then email THIS PAGE ONLY as attached file to txswic@dps.texas.gov.*

WHO SHOULD EXECUTE THIS AGREEMENT: Each jurisdiction must individually sign this agreement.

- An authorized representative of a City may sign for all public safety agencies in that city.
- A County may sign for volunteer fire departments (VFD) if the VFD is recognized in the county emergency management plan; however,
- A County CANNOT sign for all cities or other public safety agencies in the county that are not a part of county government since they are separate legal entities.
- A Council of Governments (COG) CANNOT sign for all jurisdictions within the COG.

Compliance with this TSICP and the SCIP are required to receive grant funds for communications equipment. **Agencies and programmers should verify the latest version of these documents are being referenced; they can be found at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/index.htm>**

FOR JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction Name: City of Schertz

Authorized Signature: _____

Print Name: Mark Browne

Title: City Manager

Jurisdiction Address: 1400 Schertz Parkway, Schertz, TX 78154

County: Guadalupe

Phone: 210-619-1300 e-mail: mbrowne@schertz.com

Indicate the NUMBER of mobile, portable, temporary base, and/or mobile relay radios to be operated under TxDPS licenses or MSAT Authorization. For Federal Entity Interop and 700 Air-to-Ground channels, please mark the appropriate box with a checkmark or "X" if these channels are programmed or if programming is planned for the future.

	Mobile	Portable	Temporary Base-Mobile Relay	Federal Entity Interop Channels	700 Air-to-Ground Channels
150 MHz					N/A
450 MHz					N/A
700 MHz				N/A	
800 MHz NPSPAC	99	122		N/A	N/A
Mobile Satellite (MSAT)				N/A	N/A

(This information is required by TxDPS as a condition of its licenses from the FCC.)

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Signature: _____

Todd M. Early, Assistant Chief, Infrastructure Operations Division
 Texas DPS Public Safety Communications Service, 5805 N. Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX 78752
 Phone: (512) 424-2121 Fax: (512) 424-2899 Todd.Early@dps.texas.gov