



Middle Tennessee Radio System Talkgroup Guideline

Purpose:

To provide the appropriate resources to meet the agency/departments mission and a priority level assigned to each talkgroup to ensure priority communications are met.

Policy:

Talkgroup and priority management are ongoing efforts that will minimize system loading and increase efficiency.

Each agency/department requesting access to the radio system will be allowed talkgroup(s) that will adequately and efficiently aid in meeting their needs to complete their mission within a smart management process which will ensure all users capacity on the system.

Procedure:

- a) MTRS Administration will establish a talkgroup plan in cooperation with each agency/department based on the present capabilities of the conventional radio system and the future capabilities on the trunked system in a smart system management process. Talkgroup allocations may be reviewed six months after the agency/department has gone live on the system by request of that agency/department to address unique local issues shown to affect their operations.
- b) The MTRS Administrators will review talkgroup use and priority on an annual basis to determine the adequate allocation of system resources. Administrators will work with agencies to tailor their talkgroup needs, based upon the loading of their talkgroup(s) and unique demonstrated public safety issues, with relation to efficient use of system resources. This may require modification or reallocation of talkgroup(s) used by an agency.
- c) The MTRS has developed a Mutual Aid Channel / Common, Event Talkgroup Use Plan that addresses public safety agencies' needs for interoperability.

Talkgroup Priority Assignment:

- a) Talkgroups are assigned a priority in the radio network to indicate the critical nature of the communications while the system is in a busy state.
- b) Talkgroup priorities should be issued using the rule of thirds; 1/3 high, 1/3 medium, 1/3 low. This ratio will help balance the radio system load in system busy situation allowing higher priority access to emergency and critical communications.
- c) Talkgroup priority will be determined through discussion with users and assigned as talkgroups are enabled on the radio network.

Here is an example: Sheriff Patrol= HIGH • Administration Channel= MEDIUM • Talk= LOW