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

Document Section:	**3 – Interoperability Guidelines**	Radio TOC Recommendation Date:
Sub-Section:	**METRO 3.23.0**	
Procedure Title:	**Connecting to the 800 MHz System**	
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1. Purpose or Objective

Procedure for connecting to the metro region 800 MHz radio system.

2. Operational Background:

- **Capabilities**

Users of conventional radios may communicate with radio users on the regional 800 MHz trunked radio system.

- **Constraints**

Conventional radio system users may only communicate on those common conventional radio channels that they are permitted to transmit on and available on an 800MHz console via a soft patch.

3. Operational Context:

The communications pathways may be used for day to day coordination, for urgent or emergency mutual aid situations, for task forces, tactical teams, and for other purposes. No new equipment is required; existing conventional radios can be used.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard:

- Permission from the MESB is **not** required to communicate by means of the existing conventional channels, such as MINSEF (MINSF VLaw31), National EMS (EMS VMed28), Statewide Fire Mutual Aid (SwFIRE VFire23) or MIMS. Conventional radio system users throughout the state of Minnesota (and many government conventional radio system users in Wisconsin) already have these frequencies in their radio systems. The specific frequency, or frequencies, in that list that are authorized for use in the radios depends upon the service of the owner agency for the radios.

- Base radio stations may not be added on the METTAC channels in geographic areas beyond the metro counties as the frequencies used for those channels are used elsewhere in greater Minnesota.

- Installation of new mobile and portable radios is not required as existing radio equipment can be used. However, use of the system can be enhanced by taking several steps:

- ✓ With authorization a radio technician can add the METTAC-A, METTAC-P mobile relay (repeater) and talk around channels to existing and new, mobile and portable radios.
- ✓ With authorization agencies may add RF Control Stations operating on the METTAC-A, METTAC-P channels.
- ✓ For METTAC-A and METTAC-P authorization may be received from the Office of Electronic Communications in the Minnesota Department of Transportation *(See Metro Standard 3.6.0—Use of the METTAC-P and METTAC-A).*

- Agencies may not add base mobile relay (repeater) radio stations on the METTAC-A, METTAC-P channels to avoid interference when two separate base transmitters are on the air at the same time.

5. Recommended Procedure:

Dispatch centers may request that conventional radio users switch to VHF MINSEF (MINSF VLaw31), National EMS (EMS VMed28), Statewide Fire Mutual Aid (SwFIRE VFire23), MIMS, METTAC-A, or METTAC-P. If the designated channel has not been installed in the mobile or portable radio being used, the radio user must inform the dispatch center operator of that fact.

Dispatch centers may attempt to select another interoperability resource that the radio user has available.

6. Management

Overall management of the regional public safety radio system is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board, with operational management the responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The specific frequency, or frequencies, for the existing channels MINSEF (MINSF VLaw31), National EMS (EMS VMed28), Statewide Fire Mutual Aid (SwFIRE VFire23) or MIMS are authorized for use in radios by the managing agency for the specific channel:

- National EMS (EMS VMed28),
  Statewide Radio Board
- MINSEF (MINSF VLaw31)
  Statewide Radio Board
- Statewide Fire Mutual Aid (SwFIRE VFire23)
  Statewide Radio Board
- MIMS-VHF
  Statewide Radio Board