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

Document/ Section: Sub-Section: Procedure Title:	**3 -Interoperability Guidelines** **METRO 3.20.0** **Use of Metro Regional 800 MHz Common Talk Groups –** **METPHs**	Radio TOC Recommendation Date: 2/27/08
Date Established: Replaces Document Dated: Date Revised:	**8/2/07** **8/2/07** **12/21/16**	MESB Approval - Signature: Date: 04/16/08

1. Purpose and Objective:

To establish operational policy for use of the Metro Region Public Health 800 MHz common talk groups (METPH). These talk groups are shared resources that allow interoperability between local, regional and state public health authorities during a public health incident, exercise or drill.

2. Technical Background:

- **Capabilities**

It is possible to have access to one or more common talk groups in radios used by agencies that share use of the regional 800 MHz radio system. These common talk groups can be used for a wide range of intercommunication when there is a need to coordinate activities of different public health agencies.

- **Constraints**

The availability of and the use of the common talk groups should be easily understood by radio user personnel who are primarily concerned with their mission and not with the operation of complex radios.

3. Operational Context:

Public health authorities may need to collaborate across their normal jurisdictions during crises such as arrival of an infectious disease. An example may be the need to suddenly establish polio clinics within several counties, to be operated by the county and city health agencies but coordinated by the state health department. The METPHs should be used to conduct business for such an incident, as well as to exercise for incidents.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard:
Talk Group requirements:
METPH TALK GROUPS

TG Requirements	For Whom?
Highly Recommended	State, county and local public health personnel who are ARMER users
Optional	Public Safety ARMER users
Not Allowed	None

Cross Patch Standard	YES / NO	To TalkGroups
Soft Patch	**No**	
Hard Patch	**No**	

METPHs are intended for use by public health agencies using the ARMER (800 MHz) trunked radio system. Additional METPHs may be added as needed.

None of the METPH talk groups shall be part of any multi-group.

To facilitate uniform field access to the shared statewide incident response talkgroups it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED that all public health user radios be programmed to include the following standardized "Public Health Zone"

	Public Health
1	Loc Choice
2	METPH1
3	METPH2
4	METPH3
5	METPH4
6	DRO1
7	DRO2
8	DRO3
9	DRO4
10	LOC CH/Blank
11	LOC CH/Blank
12	LOC CH/Blank
13	LOC CH/Blank
14	LOC CH/Blank
15	LOC CH/Blank
16	MSP CALL

Loc Choice = LOC CH - TYPICALLY USER'S DISPATCH MAIN

5. Recommended Procedure:

When a METPH resource is needed, public health agencies may coordinate use of the METPH directly with other agencies using land line or other conventional methods prior to deployment or during an event. Once in use, it is up to each public health agency to monitor the METPH talk groups.

6. Management:

Users of radios containing METPH talk groups shall receive initial and continuing training on the use of this procedure.

Responsibility for monitoring compliance and talkgroup permissions for METPH1, METPH2, METPH3 and METPH4 shall be a function of the Metro Local Public Health Association (MLPHA).