

IC Zone Naming

The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Communications System provides a more reliable and effective way to communicate on a day-to-day basis and directly improves the ability of public safety first responders to interoperate across agency and jurisdictional lines during life threatening incidents. All agencies are encouraged to regularly exercise setting up Incident Command (IC) talkgroups and using the available IC Zones and interoperable channels. This training insures that if a real-world event happened, everyone would be able to respond on a moments notice and know exactly what to do.

During a recent exercise, there was a great degree of confusion about the Incident Command channels, proper naming conventions, and responsibilities concerning assignments to zones and talkgroups. The agency conducting the exercise tried to follow the proper protocols, but was met with confusion on the part of the other participants.

In Oct 2007, the Operations Management Office (OMO) published the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels in an article in the *Insider* newsletter. This was a Federal mandate affecting only conventional channels. However, the OMO has always encourage all agencies to use a standard naming convention for the narrowband channels as well, and has provided 'smart cards' and training to that effect.

The OMO cannot mandate any agency to use these standards. Unfortunately, the confusion experienced in the exercise once again emphasizes why all agencies on ALMR should train the way they fight. Had this been an actual event, precious time would have been lost trying to 'figure out' what channels the other agencies were operating on due to the use of non-standard channel naming conventions. It would be difficult to explain the death of one of our own because there was a severe delay when no one could talk to each other if there was precious time wasted figuring out who was on what channel.

The following information is readily available to all agencies operating on ALMR, and has been for some time. The OMO understands not all radios are maintained in a central location and easily accessible for reprogramming. However, we have continually encouraged agencies to reprogram their radios with the standard nomenclatures as they come in for periodic maintenance, upgrades, reprogramming, etc.

Regional dispatchers are the keystone to this effort and are responsible for assigning IC zones and talkgroups including exercise events. They must be aware at all times when a zone or talkgroup is in use so other agencies do not try to utilize the same one.

The responsible agency stated the System worked great and the radios performed at they should, but the confusion caused by non-standard nomenclatures was extremely frustrating and time consuming.

ALMR Interoperable Zone Channels/Talkgroups		
Channel Name	FREQ./TG	Purpose
LE SX	155.2500	Non P25 Conv. (Wide)
CnC	155.2950	Non P25 Conv. (Wide)
EMS	155.1600	Non P25 Conv. (Wide)
CH 6	Marine	Emergency Use Only
CH 16	Marine	Emergency Use Only
CH 17	Marine	Emergency Use Only
CH 22A	Marine	Emergency Use Only
V CALL 10 (Conventional)	155.7525 NAC293	National P25 Hail Channel (Narrow)
V TAC 11 (Conventional)	151.1375 NAC293	National P25 Channel (Narrow)
V TAC 12 (Conventional)	154.4525 NAC293	National P25 Channel (Narrow)
V TAC 13 (Conventional)	158.7375 NAC293	National P25 Channel (Narrow)
V TAC 14 (Conventional)	159.4725 NAC293	National P25 Channel (Narrow)
AST Trunked	ASTT	ALMR Talkgroup
EMS Trunked	EMST	ALMR Talkgroup
DEC Trunked	DECT	ALMR Talkgroup
DNR Trunked	DNRT	ALMR Talkgroup

ALMR Statewide Talkgroup Assignments			
CH	IC	OPS	ADMIN
1	HAIL	LE SX	ADMIN 1
2	S TAC 1	CnC	ADMIN 2
3	S TAC 2	EMS	ADMIN 3
4	S TAC 3	MARINE CH 6	ADMIN 4
5	N TAC 1	MARINE CH 16	ADMIN 5
6	N TAC 2	MARINE CH 17	ADMIN 6
7	N TAC 3	MARINE CH 22 A	ADMIN 7
8	TAC SX	VCALL10	ADMIN 8
9	CMD 1	V TAC 11	ADMIN 9
10	CMD 2	V TAC 12	ADMIN 10
11	CMD 3	V TAC 13	ADMIN 11
12	CMD 4	V TAC 14	ADMIN 12
13	CMD MG	AST T	ADMIN 13
14	S TAC MG	EMST	ADMIN 14
15	N TAC MG	DECT	ADMIN 15
16	DYN RGP	DNR T	ADMIN 16

REGION A - F		
TALK GRP	REGION	ALMR Incident Command Regional Protocol
1	HAIL	Respond to an incident using your local day-to-day talkgroups. Dispatch will assign a Zone and Talk Group. Responding agencies from outside their normal region contact dispatch on the Regional Hail channel. Dispatch will assign responders to the proper zone and talkgroup. Close out the response with dispatch and return to your regular talkgroups when complete.
2	IC2	
3	IC3	
4	IC4	
5	IC5	
6	IC6	
7	IC7	
8	IC8SX	
9	IC9	
10	IC10	
11	IC11	
12	IC12	
13	IC13	
14	IC14	
15	IC15	
16	ICMG	

KEY	
REGION	SERVICE AREA
A	SOUTHEAST ALASKA (limited ALMR coverage)
B	MATSU, VALDEZ, CORDOVA, GLENNALLEN
C	WESTERN ALASKA (no ALMR coverage)
D	INTERIOR ALASKA
E	KENAI PENINSULA
F	ANCHORAGE