

York County Comprehensive Communications System Talkgroup Allowance and Review Guideline

Policies:

- a) York County Comprehensive Communications System User's Group will establish a talkgroup plan for each agency/department based on the presumptive allocation of one talkgroup per twenty-five subscriber units and establish a talkgroup priority for each talk group. This presumed number might be modified following discussions with agency representatives. Talkgroup allocations may be reviewed six months after the agency/department has gone live on the system by request of that agency/department so as to address unique local issues shown to affect their operations.
- b) The User's Group will review talkgroup use and priority on an annual basis to determine the adequate allocation of system resources. The User's Group will work with agencies to tailor their talkgroup needs, based upon the loading on the talkgroups and unique demonstrated public safety issues, with relation to efficient use of system resources. This may require modification or reallocation of talkgroups used by an agency.
- c) The User's Group will develop a Common Channel Use Plan that addresses public safety agencies' needs for interoperability.

Background:

Talkgroups are the means by which radio users communicate on the 800MHz trunked radio network and the scaled deployment of those talkgroups improves the efficacy of the radio system. Talkgroup and priority management are ongoing efforts that will minimize system loading and increase efficiency.

Purpose:

This document will outline the talk group allowances based on the number of subscriber units used by the agency as well as the priority level assigned to each talk group.

Talkgroup Allowance:

Each agency/department requesting access to the radio network will be allowed (1) talk group per every 25 subscriber radios that they bring onto the trunked radio system.

Talkgroup Priority Assignment:

- a) Talk groups 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) Talk group 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:

- Fire Operations 2 = HIGH
- Administration Channel = MEDIUM
- Conference = LOW