

Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)

Standards, Protocols, Procedures

Document Section:	3 – Interoperability Guidelines	Status: updated waiting approval process Date: 07/11/2013
Sub-Section:	SE – 3.14.0	
Procedure Title:	Use of ARMER SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E	
Date Established:	None	Regional Radio Board Approval:
Replaces Document Dated:	None	
Date Revised:	7/11/2013	

1. Purpose or Objective

To establish policy & procedures for use of the Southeastern Minnesota Regional ARMER all-user tactical **(SE-2-13)** Talkgroups. These talkgroups are a region-wide resource intended to facilitate communications among and between different agencies and service branches that typically do not communicate with each other, when there is a need to coordinate their operations.

This policy will:

Provide standardized radio communications capabilities for all ARMER users in the southeast region.

Provide the radio communications structure necessary to enable effective situational awareness, command and control, and resource coordination in support of the incident command and management structure specified under NIMS.

Serve to minimize usage conflicts when region-wide incident response talkgroups are needed for multiple incidents/events.

2. Technical Background:

Capabilities

It is possible to have **SE2-SE13 talkgroups in all ARMER radios in the state and SE14E and SE15E on radios with encryption.** These common talkgroups can be used for a wide range of intercommunication when coordination of activities between personnel of different agencies is needed on an event. Patching of the **SE2-13** talkgroups can be done to any non-hard patched conventional resource, other common talkgroups or to private talkgroups as needed to facilitate communications for incidents/events. SE14E and SE15E are **NOT** allowed to be patched to any other resource.

Constraints

To provide seamless, wide-area coverage in the Southeastern ARMER region the SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E talkgroups **MUST BE AVAILABLE** on all sites and subsystems within the Southeastern ARMER region and sites and subsystems directly adjacent to the region.

To minimize system loading impact on other regions, the SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E talkgroups will only be allowed on sites and sub-systems within the southeastern ARMER region and sites and subsystems directly adjacent to the region.

Some of these talkgroups may be used as part of a soft patch to common VHF channels that are restricted for use by personnel of specific services. As an example, VLAW31 (MINSEF VHF) may only be used by law enforcement and EMS personnel. The dispatch center creating the patch is responsible for checking for proper talkgroup authorizations when creating soft patches.

Because many different agencies may be communicating with one another, for purposes of safety, plain English/common terminology must be used when communicating on these regional talkgroups. The use of ten codes is not permitted. This pertains to direct or indirect (when in soft patch) use of these regional talkgroups.

The availability of and the use of these talkgroups should be easily understood by radio user personnel who are primarily concerned with their mission.

SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E are not to be used for an internal event. Private, other tactical, admin or common talkgroups are for internal agency communications. SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E should be used only when interoperability with external agencies outside the local county jurisdiction is needed or is likely.

The SE2-SE13 regional talkgroups are not capable of encryption.

The SE14E and SE15E talk Groups will be strapped as secure encryption and **NOT** selectable encryption.

Any ARMER talkgroup can be in only one patch whether it is a hard (technician set) or soft (radio console operator set) patch.

3. Operational Context:

The SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E talkgroups are a regional resource:

To facilitate communications between agencies and service branches that typically do not communicate with each other on a regular basis.

To support effective command and management of major incidents under the NIMS protocols.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard:

SE2-SE13 Talkgroup Requirements	For Whom?
<u>Required</u>	All public safety and public service mobiles, portables, bases, and public safety dispatch centers in the <u>Southeastern Minnesota ARMER Region</u>
<u>Optional</u>	All other ARMER public safety and public service mobiles, portables
<u>Not Allowed</u>	<u>None</u>

SE14E and SE15E Talkgroup Requirements	For Whom?
<u>Optional</u>	All public safety mobiles, portables, bases, and public safety dispatch centers in the <u>Southeastern Minnesota ARMER Region</u> With encryption capable radios
<u>Optional</u>	All other ARMER public safety mobiles, Portables
<u>Not Allowed</u>	<u>Non-public safety</u>

Cross Patch Standard	YES / NO	To Talkgroups
Soft Patch	Optional	As Needed
Hard Patch	No	

In order to meet the communications needs for an event, the **SE2-SE13** talkgroups may be patched to:

Conventional RF resources, such as VHF, UHF etc.

Private agency talkgroups, such as dispatch mains, tactical talkgroups etc.

Other interop talkgroups, including statewide talkgroups, although this would not be preferred as a method of resolving communications needs.

The "Status Board" application (See *ARMER standard 3.31.0*) will be used to manage the talkgroup resource.

The **SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E** talkgroups shall only be used when there is a significant need for interagency communications and other suitable means for interagency communications are unavailable, to avoid a reduction in availability of this resource when it is needed for important events.

None of the **SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E** talkgroups shall be part of any system configured multigroup.

It is highly recommended that all ARMER non-public safety capable dispatch centers in the Southeastern Minnesota ARMER region have all the **SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E** talkgroups available for patching.

It is highly recommended that all public safety radio users program a sufficient quantity of **SE Regional** talkgroups into their subscriber radios to meet their interagency communications needs.

5. Recommended Procedure:

The pool talkgroups may either be used directly, or be patched to other resources to meet the communications needs of incidents/events.

The usage of **SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E** for **EMERGENCY or IN-PROGRESS** interoperability events should be **SE2-SE13** in chronological order.

The usage of **SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E** for **PREPLANNED NON-EMERGENCY** interoperability events should be **SE13-SE2 and SE14E and SE15E** in reverse chronological order.

When a resource is needed, the requesting agency will contact the appropriate ARMER dispatch center to have the next preferred available talkgroup granted. The dispatch center will utilize the "Status Board" application to identify the status of the resource.

When operating on the **SE2-SE13, SE14E, and SE15E** talkgroups, users should initially identify in the following manner using plain English: Agency name, followed by service branch or function designation, followed by call sign or unit number and talkgroup name. Examples: "Winona Police 53 on SE2", "Winona County Highway Department 490 on SE4", "State Patrol 512 on SE13". Once established, ongoing communications between the same units may be shortened.

At the conclusion of the event the ARMER dispatch center will remove any patches that were used for the event, and update the status board.

Resources that are patched to these talkgroups, such as MINSEF VLAW31, Statewide Fire VFIRE23, and National EMS VMED28 VHF radio frequencies shall continue to adhere to the rules set forth by the groups that govern the use of their respective conventional radio talkgroups.

NOTE: Dispatch centers initiating any soft patches must announce the patch after it is set up AND prior to it being taken down.

6. Management

Dispatch center managers & supervisors for agencies on the ARMER system shall insure that this procedure for usage and assignment of the SE2-SE13 and SE14E and SE15E talkgroups be adhered to, as well as the setting up of soft patches for which they are responsible.

Dispatch center operators shall receive initial and continuing training on the use of this procedure

