Metro Region ARMER Standards

Section 1 – Metro 3.20.0 Use of Metro Regional 800 MHz
Common Talk Groups - METPHs
Date Established   **8-02-07**
Date Revised/Reviewed   **12-21-16**

1. **Purpose or 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 talkgroups in radios used by agencies that share use of the metropolitan region of the ARMER 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 and use of the common talkgroups 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**

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

Cross Patch Standard	YES/NO
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 METPHs talk groups shall be part of any multi-group.

To facilitate uniform field access to the shared statewide incident response talk groups 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 = LOCAL CH – TYPICALLY USERS'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 talkgroups.

6. Management

Users of radios containing METPH talkgroups 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).