

542.4 INTERAGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide instruction for the use of the local mutual aid talk groups available on the Tampa Police Department 700 MHz P25 radio system.
- II. **DISCUSSION:** The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) maintains the 700 MHz P25 radio system, which the Tampa Police Department utilizes for all radio communications. Other agencies monitoring the mutual aid talk groups are HCSO, Hillsborough County Fire/Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, University of South Florida Police, Hillsborough County School Security, Plant City Police and Temple Terrace Police and Fire.
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - a. Interagency Communications: The ability of the Tampa Police Department to have voice radio communications with local agencies.
 - b. CO-WIDE: "County Wide" is the hailing talk group that will be used to request assistance or report an event in a neighboring jurisdiction.
 - c. CO-W-TAC: "County Wide Tac" will be used for on-going operations.
 - d. Intra City E/W7: "Intra County East/West" are the Fleets that have the talk groups that will be used for prolonged mutual aid operations. (EX: 7TAC E1, 7TAC E2, 7TAC W1, 7TAC W2).
 - e. HIL-xx: "Hillsborough County Interop" are interoperable talk groups for agencies that reside outside of Hillsborough County.
 - f. HIL-01: "Hillsborough County Interop" is the hailing talk group on the 700MHz radio system that will be used to request assistance or report an event from an agency outside of Hillsborough County.
 - g. HIL-01 to HIL-04: "Hillsborough County Interop" are talk groups patched to Pinellas County Interop talk groups PIN-01 to PIN-04 via an ISSI gateway.
 - h. HIL-02 to HIL-16: "Hillsborough County Interop" are supplementary talk groups to move to after the initial hailing request on HIL-01
 - i. Plain Talk: The use of the English vocabulary in radio transmissions without the use of codes and/or signals.
- IV. **PROCEDURES for Agencies Within Hillsborough County:**
 - a. The CO-WIDE talk group will be monitored at all times by the communication centers of the previously listed agencies. Plant City Police Department, Tampa Fire Rescue, Tampa International Airport Police and Temple Terrace Police communications centers monitor this talk group and

request can be made for them, however, their field units do not have access to this talk group.

- b. At any time assistance or an incident needs to be reported to another agency, the TPD unit will switch to the CO-WIDE talk group and call the corresponding agency's communications center and make the request using "plain talk."
- c. If the request does not require interagency participation, the TPD unit will receive confirmation from the participating agency that the situation is being handled and will switch back to his/her primary talk group.
- d. If the request requires interagency participation, the TPD unit will make the request and continue to monitor CO-WIDE. If the situation develops into an on-going situation, all units will be instructed to switch to CO-W-TAC. If the situation is deemed to be a prolonged event, the units will be advised to switch to one of the Intra-County TAC talk groups.
- e. It will be the responsibility of the communications center that is making the request to handle all radio traffic regarding an on-going or prolonged event.
- f. In the event a local agency requires assistance from TPD, they should raise the TPD Communications Supervisor on CO-WIDE.
- g. Once the request is received, the Communications Supervisor will follow through with the request and will provide confirmation action has been taken.
- h. If the situation requires interagency participation, the TPD Communications Supervisor will continue to monitor, but the requesting agency will control the incident.
- i. All users will speak in plain talk only. Do not use codes and signals.
- j. All participating agencies will be active in the weekly testing of the system to ensure equipment is functioning and communication centers are monitoring as per agreement.

V. PROCEDURES for Agencies Outside of Hillsborough County:

- a. HIL-01 serves as a hailing talk group on the 700MHz radio system in the event an agency outside of Hillsborough County requires assistance or is assisting with an event. The dispatch center handling the call will then move the hailing call from HIL-01 to another HIL talk group not in use. HIL-02 to HIL-16 are available to use.
- b. FHP: When Trooper starts pursuit, FHP agency dispatch center will immediately perform the following steps:

- i. Patch the talkgroup that the pursuit occurring to “HIL-04” and “STATE_71”
 - ii. Notify the other local agencies (TPD, HSCO) that a pursuit is occurring
 - iii. The agency most likely to be assisting FHP will patch “STATE_71” to “HIL-04” talkgroup.
 - iv. They will notify their units to switch to “HIL-04” to assist with the pursuit
 - v. After pursuit is completed, breakdown all patches
- c. Pinellas, St Pete, Clearwater: When an Officer/Deputy starts a pursuit, the initiating agency dispatch center will immediately perform the following steps:
 - i. Patch the talkgroup that the pursuit occurring to “HIL-04” and “STATE_71”
 - ii. Notify the other local agencies (FHP, TPD, HCSO) that a pursuit is occurring
 - iii. The agency most likely to be assisting Pinellas will patch the “STATE_71” and “HIL-04” talkgroups
 - iv. TPD will notify their units to switch to “HIL-04” to assist with the pursuit
 - v. FHP can decide if they want to patch to their talkgroup
 - vi. After pursuit is completed, breakdown all patches
- d. All users will speak in plain talk only. Do not use codes and signals.
- e. All participating agencies will be active in the weekly testing of the system to ensure equipment is functioning and communication centers are monitoring as per agreement.

Supersedes SOP 542.4, dated 5/17.