

## 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.

<b>ALMR Interoperable Zone Channels/Talkgroups</b>		
<b>Channel Name</b>	<b>FREQ./TG</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
LE SX	155.2500	Law Enforcement Simplex
EMS-S	159.2100	AK Emergency Medical Service
SAR	155.1600	Search & Rescue
CH6	156.3000	Marine-Intership Safety EMERGENCY USE ONLY
CH16	156.8000	Marine-Calling EMERGENCY USE ONLY
CH17	156.8500	Marine-State Control EMERGENCY USE ONLY
CH22A	157.1000	Marine-Coast Guard Liaison EMERGENCY USE ONLY
VCALL 10 (Conventional)	155.7525 PL156.7	National VHF Calling Channel (Narrow)
VTAC 11 (Conventional)	151.1375 PL156.7	National VHF Tactical 1
VTAC 12 (Conventional)	154.4525 PL156.7	National VHF Tactical 2
VTAC 13 (Conventional)	158.7375 PL156.7	National VHF Tactical 3
VTAC 14 (Conventional)	159.4725 PL156.7	National VHF Tactical 1
ASTT	ALMR	Coordinate use w/ AK State Troopers
EMST	ALMR	Coordinate use w/ Emergency Medical Svcs
DECT	ALMR	Coordinate use w/ Dept of Env Conservation
DNRT	ALMR	Coordinate use w/ Dept of Nat Resources

<b>ALMR Statewide Talkgroup Assignments</b>			
<b>CH</b>	<b>IC</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ADMIN</b>
1	HAIL	LE SX	ADMIN 1
2	S TAC 1	EMS-S	ADMIN 2
3	S TAC 2	SAR	ADMIN 3
4	S TAC 3	MARINE CH6	ADMIN 4
5	N TAC 1	MAR INE CH16	ADMIN 5
6	N TAC 2	MARINE CH17	ADMIN 6
7	N TAC 3	MARINE CH22 A	ADMIN 7
8	TAC SX	VCALL10	ADMIN 8
9	CMD 1	VTAC 11	ADMIN 9
10	CMD 2	VTAC 12	ADMIN 10
11	CMD 3	VTAC 13	ADMIN 11
12	CMD 4	VTAC 14	ADMIN 12
13	CMD MG	AST T	ADMIN 13
14	S TAC MG	EMS T	ADMIN 14
15	N TAC MG	DEC T	ADMIN 15
16	DYN RGP	DNR T	ADMIN 16

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

<b>KEY</b>	
<b>REGION</b>	<b>SERVICE AREA</b>
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