

## **Nebraska Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Interoperability Mutual Aid Plan**

### **Governance**

State of Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)  
Official members of the Nebraska SIEC – Public Safety and others interested

The Nebraska Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) was formed through the Nebraska 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee authority. On November 26, 2001 Governor Johanns signed a letter indicating the state's intent to administer 700 MHz interoperability spectrum, and designating the Division of Communications (now Office of the CIO, Network Services) to represent Nebraska's interoperability interests. The Nebraska SIEC coordinates with Region 26 (Nebraska) 700/800 MHz Regional Planning Committees, the Regional Interoperability Advisory Board (LB 343, 2005), and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The purpose of the SIEC is to adopt the statewide mutual aid frequency plan and facilitate improvements to interoperable communications through shared frequencies and coordination of communications assets available in emergencies.

### **Membership**

Membership is open to all public safety officials, as well as elected and appointed tribal, local and state officials, and all stakeholders with an interest in Nebraska's public safety communications interoperability.

### **Coverage Areas**

Coverage areas are established through SIEC's approval and local agreement to manage, operate and maintain shared communications through interoperability protocols.

Note: local jurisdictions have the flexibility to establish alternative mutual aid frequencies and coverage areas, and to interconnect designated statewide mutual aid channels to other resources, as governed under the statewide interoperability plan or regional interoperability plan.

### **Mutual Aid Base Channel Assignments in Nebraska**

#### VHF Calling and TAC Channels:

These are simplex stations controlled by local Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs.)

#### VHF Simplex Base frequencies:

VCALL – Transmit 155.7525, Receive 155.7525, Tone 156.7

VTAC1 – Transmit 151.1375, Receive 151.1375, Tone 156.7

VTAC2 – Transmit 154.4525, Receive 154.4525, Tone 156.7

VTAC3 – Transmit 158.7375, Receive 158.7375, Tone 156.7

VTAC4 – Transmit 159.4725, Receive 159.4725, Tone 156.7

These frequencies are also for Mobile-to-Mobile On-the-Scene Ground Communications. First responders will be directed to "off-base channel" assignment operating in local area for direct ground communications.

UHF Calling and TAC Channels:

These are simplex stations controlled by local PSAPs.

(Repeater operation may be activated when controlled under agreement with the State frequency manager.

UHF Simplex base frequencies:

UCALL – Transmit 453.2125, Receive 453.2125., Tone 156.7

UTAC1 – Transmit 453.4625, Receive 453.4625, Tone 156.7

UTAC2 – Transmit 453.7125, Receive 453.7125, Tone 156.7

UTAC3 – Transmit 453.8625, Receive 453.8625, Tone 156.7

UHF Repeater mode frequencies (when repeater mode is activated):

UCALL – Transmit 453.2125, Receive 458.2125., Tone 156.7

UTAC1 – Transmit 453.4625, Receive 458.4625, Tone 156.7

UTAC2 – Transmit 453.7125, Receive 458.7125, Tone 156.7

UTAC3 – Transmit 453.8625, Receive 458.8625, Tone 156.7

800 MHz (NPSPAC mutual aid repeater assignments):

800 MHz ground channel assignments are talk-around using base transmit frequency. This would be in cases where no repeater is in operation, or for incident command ground assignments.

(800 MHz rebanding currently in process – frequencies will be moved 15 MHz down as indicated below):

8CALL Transmit 851.0125, Receive 806.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 601)

8TAC1 Transmit 851.5125, Receive 806.5125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 639)

8TAC2 Transmit 852.0125, Receive 807.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 677)

8TAC3 Transmit 852.5125, Receive 807.5125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 715)

8TAC4 Transmit 853.0125, Receive 808.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 753)

Temporary Repeater Operation is allowed, but is secondary to fixed operations (FB2T station class)

## Mobile Radio Programming

VHF is the same as simplex base channels.

First responders will be directed to “off-base channel” assignment operating in local area for direct ground communications.

VCALL – Transmit 155.7525, Receive 155.7525, Tone 156.7

VTAC1 – Transmit 151.1375, Receive 151.1375, Tone 156.7

VTAC2 – Transmit 154.4525, Receive 154.4525, Tone 156.7

VTAC3 – Transmit 158.7375, Receive 158.7375, Tone 156.7

VTAC4 – Transmit 159.4725, Receive 159.4725, Tone 156.7

UHF Direct – Mobile-to-Mobile On-the-Scene Ground Communications:

First responders will be directed to “off -base channel” assignment operating in local area for direct ground communications.

UCALLD – Transmit 453.2125, Receive 453.2125., Tone 156.7

UTAC1D – Transmit 453.4625, Receive 453.4625, Tone 156.7

UTAC2D – Transmit 453.7125, Receive 453.7125, Tone 156.7

UTAC3D – Transmit 453.8625, Receive 453.8625, Tone 156.7

UHF Repeater mode of operation:

UCALL – Transmit 458.2125, Receive 453.2125., Tone 156.7  
UTAC1 – Transmit 458.4625, Receive 453.4625, Tone 156.7  
UTAC2 – Transmit 458.7125, Receive 453.7125, Tone 156.7  
UTAC3 – Transmit 458.8625, Receive 453.8625, Tone 156.7

800 MHz Direct – Mobile-to-Mobile On-the-Scene Ground Communications:

First responders will be directed to “off-base channel” assignment operating in local area for direct ground communications.

8CALLD Transmit 851.0125, Receive 851.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 601)  
8TAC1D Transmit 851.5125, Receive 851.5125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 639)  
8TAC2D Transmit 852.0125, Receive 852.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 677)  
8TAC3D Transmit 852.5125, Receive 852.5125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 715)  
8TAC4D Transmit 853.0125, Receive 853.0125, Tone 156.7 (NPSPAC Ch. 753)

700 MHz (700 MHz plan in progress)

Note: Interfering VHF and UHF adjacent wide band licenses are (TO BE) documented in the attachments. These systems will require a new frequency assignment or license modification before the specific mutual aid channel can be established in the area. Adjacent wide band licenses are secondary and must cease operations if they cause interference to a narrowband licensee. The intent of this plan is to facilitate system upgrades as necessary to implement the mutual aid plan statewide.

1. Mobile coverage will be defined throughout the state using a standard talk-back criterion.
2. Common PL tone will be assigned – 156.7 Hz.
3. Nebraska SIEC rules will govern the use of the channels statewide.
4. Counties may use a tone panel if they have a plan to route various tones to designated local talk paths.

## Frequency coordination

The Nebraska OCIO will license all mutual aid frequencies statewide. Local jurisdictions will provide tower information and supporting documentation as required to demonstrate eligibility.

## Rules for Use

FCC Part 90 Rules, Limitation 80, states that interoperability frequencies are intended “primarily for public safety interoperability only communications.” Therefore, mutual aid use is for the purpose of shared multi-jurisdiction operations.

1. The local PSAP/dispatch must be in control of their mutual aid base station.
2. Incident command authorities will be established for coordination.
3. User training will be provided regionally on the use of the calling channel and TAC channels.
4. Operating procedures will describe effective use of the mutual aid resources.
5. Interoperability governance structure will support user/dispatcher input for ongoing development.

Jurisdictions and regions may adopt use policies that support the intended use for these shared frequencies. Written agreements are encouraged that establish written guidelines or instructions for incident response. Operational agreements should be the focus, but also agreements that support

technical maintenance of the mutual aid resources. Emergency responders are to act in a coordinated fashion across disciplines in the event of an emergency. Clear communications and radio discipline enable more effective use of the system.

The State OCIO will adopt a resolution to arbitrate in the event that problems or conflict occurs in the use of mutual aid resources.

The State OCIO holds licenses for mutual aid frequencies.

The OCIO will attempt to resolve problems with local officials directly.

In the event the problem cannot be resolved, sanctions may be enacted by the OCIO and submitted for review by the Statewide Interoperability Governance Council.

## **SOPs for Mutual Aid Frequency Use and Assignment**

Mutual aid frequency assignments in Nebraska are shared and are not discipline specific. The statewide plan establishes a statewide coverage overlay that is intended to “complement” existing local systems that are already in use for daily operations. The mutual aid frequencies are available resources for assignment and use by local jurisdictions on an as-needed basis. RF coverage areas provide a MINIMAL capacity for dispatch coordination, and therefore must be used with command and control discretion.

## **Operation and Use**

TBD – In process through NCOR SOP planning

## **Implementing the Mutual Aid Plan**

1. The OCIO coordinates with local/regional officials on tower locations and PSAP connectivity.
2. VHF/UHF/800 will be in non-repeat mode until activated to repeat by the local PSAP.
3. The PSAP will monitor the use and control of the mutual aid channels when monitoring an event.
4. The OCIO will hold licenses and issue letter of authorization.
5. Repeater operation for UHF and 800 MHz will be in “knocked down” mode on the Calling Channel.
6. Decide dispatch-to-dispatch calling on simplex stations. (This may be used as a redundant low common denominator means of communicating regionally between dispatch centers.)