

## Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officer's Association Protocols

**Subject:** Use of NGEN County-wide talk groups

**Purpose:** With the implementation of the NGEN radio system, it is necessary to define a County-wide procedure for the use of the County-wide talk groups as well as a policy regarding the use of mobile and portable radios outside of the agency jurisdiction as that usage has the potential to affect all system users.

**Policy:**

### *County-Wide Talk Group (CWTG) Procedures:*

- A. The CWTG was developed in order to promote inter-agency radio communication and provide an alternate talk group for special circumstances. All law enforcement agencies will program their portable radios with the CWTG's on Bank B for consistency and ease of use.
  - a. TG 2-3 are encrypted.
  - b. TG 4 is interfaced with the analog overlay system through the gateway. This TG should be reserved for interoperable communication needs and to communicate with agencies that do not have access to the digital system.
  - c. TG 5-12 are unencrypted, digital talk groups.
- B. All CWTG's are recorded at the Dispatch Center but will only be monitored by a dispatcher at the request of an agency and under the direction of individual agency MOU's and Protocols with County Communications.
- C. Requests for usage of a CWTG should be made through Dispatch in order to avoid conflicts with other users.
- D. Uses of CWTG:
  - a. Use as a secondary dispatched talk group for agencies that do not have a secondary talk group. For example, Soledad PD has a 10-3 on their primary talk group, they can request Dispatch to monitor TG 5 as a secondary dispatched talk group. The following TG's are preassigned as the secondary dispatched talk group. These

assignments are to be used as a guide only. Users and Dispatch may alter the TG assignment dependent on the situation and needs of the users.

- i. Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales, and King City PD- TG 5
  - ii. Seaside, Sand City, ~~Airport PD~~- TG 6
  - iii. Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Airport PD- TG 7
  - iv. Marina, CSUMB PD- TG 8
- b. Use as a command and/or tactical talk group in a multi-agency response incident such as emergency evacuation, active shooter, etc.
- i. The on-scene incident commander or supervisor will request a CWTG for the incident and advise Dispatch if the TG needs to be monitored by the dispatcher.
  - ii. Multiple CWTG can be assigned to a single incident if necessary.
- c. Use as a primary TG for incidents that move outside the coverage area of the involved agency such as a pursuit that leaves the jurisdiction.
- d. Use as a special event talk group such as the AT&T golf tournament, Monterey 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, or King City Fair.
- i. Dispatch will not monitor the talk group unless mutually agreed upon by Dispatch and the agency having jurisdiction.
  - ii. Such usage should be requested in advance through Dispatch.
- e. Use as a multi-discipline talk group when coordinating with Fire and/or EMS.

*Use of radios outside agency jurisdiction:*

Due to the nature of the NGEN system functionality, portable and mobile radios will automatically continue to monitor radio traffic from the talk group selected on the radio, regardless of physical location of the radio within the system footprint. As such, multiple talk paths can potentially be occupied on multiple repeater sites when a user travels around the County. When this occurs, the capacity of the system is adversely

affected and users may experience wait times when attempting to broadcast. In order to reduce such capacity issues without affecting user functionality, the following policy is being enacted.

- A. When traveling outside of the user's agency jurisdiction, the user shall:
  - a. Switch to the primary talk group of the jurisdiction the user is in; or
  - b. Advise Dispatch that they will be switching to a County-Wide talk group and ask the dispatcher to monitor that talk group; or
  - c. Utilize the Be-On application.
  
- B. For agencies that regularly travel and conduct business throughout the County such as the Probation Department and District Attorney's Office, the following policy shall be adhered to:
  - a. The user shall switch to the primary talk group of the agency of jurisdiction. For example, a Probation Officer shall switch to the South Cities primary TG when in the City of Gonzalez. If they then travel to Marina, they shall switch to Marina PD primary as they transition from the Salinas valley to the coast. This would apply to both the portable and mobile radios.
  
- C. Off-duty personnel shall not use their portable or mobile radio to monitor radio traffic unless there is a specific business reason to do so. Personnel who wish to monitor radio traffic outside of their area of jurisdiction should use the BeOn application.