Talk Group Priority Policy

California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS)

The purpose of this policy is to explain and clarify criteria used to prioritize talk group access for the CRIS during times of declared emergencies. The CRIS will utilize the system configuration capabilities to define and assign priorities to talk groups. Priority settings will assure that at all times there is an appropriate prioritization of use on the system so that First Responders are given priority in an emergency.

CRIS Access Priorities

In the event of an emergency or all channels at a site or in the system are busy, access prioritization shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Priority One - Emergency Identification

    a. An "Emergency Identification" is defined as the message received when a public safety member calls for immediate assistance by activating an emergency button or switch on the user radio equipment.

2. Priority Two - Public Safety

    a. "Public Safety" includes the normal, daily radio transmissions of law enforcement, fire service, paramedic providers, and disaster preparedness personnel using the CRIS. Agencies generally considered non-public safety, but support law enforcement and fire response agencies on a regular basis such as California Department of Transportation (DOT), shall be considered as Public Safety in regards to traffic prioritization.

    b. "Public Safety" also includes the CRIS users whose typical lower priorities have been temporarily changed to resolve an unusual occurrence or large scale disaster.

3. Priority Three - Non-Public Safety, Special Event

    a. "Non-Public Safety, Special Event" includes planned events involving public service agency participants that are beyond the scope of their normal daily operations.

4. Priority Four - Non-Public Safety, Regular

    a. "Non-Public Safety, Regular" includes the normal daily radio transmissions of public service agencies using the system.

    Subscribers may experience limited or no access to the system during an emergency talk group activation.

    Note: In order to ensure the CRIS meets the needs of California's Public Safety and Non-Public Safety subscribers, Cal OES/PSC reserves the right to modify a

subscribers talk group priority which can include creation of additional talk groups or adding sub-levels to the existing groups to operate within the different priority levels.