

# Emergency Telephone System Board Of DuPage County Policy and Procedures



Policy #: 911-005.10  
Previous Policy(s): New  
Effective Date: March 10, 2020  
Revised: September 13, 2023

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## METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION TEAM DESIGNATED TALK GROUPS

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### Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with State of Illinois STARCOM21 and DEDIRS requirements for use and access of DEDIRS talk groups for the purpose of interoperability for emergency communications.

### Additional Authority:

50 ILCS 750 Emergency Telephone System Act  
50 ILCS 751 Wireless Emergency Telephone Safety Act  
83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 725  
83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1325.415(m)  
OEX-003B-89 Amending Section 40-20 of the DuPage County Code Pertaining to the Emergency Telephone System Board

### Goal:

It is the goal of the Emergency Telephone System Board of DuPage County (DuPage ETSB) to provide one seamless method of interoperable communication for use by agencies on DEDIRS for non-member agencies.

### Scope:

This policy shall apply to all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the DuPage ETSB 9-1-1 System, including all Telecommunicators and other employees of the PSAP, user agencies or DuPage ETSB staff, contracted vendors or other authorized agents, and DEDIRS users and agencies receiving approval to access DEDIRS talk groups.

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## I. Policy Statement

DuPage ETSB leases a portion of the Motorola Solutions, Inc. STARCOM21 network in Illinois as an integrated component of its emergency dispatch telephone system. The system permits communication between telecommunications and the first responding personnel they dispatch in response to calls placed to 9-1-1. The system also permits personnel from public safety agencies throughout the County to communicate with each other during emergency joint response situations.

DuPage County law enforcement agencies, through their respective governments, have created the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team ("MERIT"). MERIT was formed as a cooperative law enforcement group through intergovernmental agreement. MERIT has three sections: Tactical OPS, Special OPS, and Investigative Ops.

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## II. MERIT Talk Groups

To facilitate the specific workflow of the three sections of MERIT, effective immediately, DuPage County Task Force talk Groups 1-5 (DCTF 1-5) will be used for MERIT and SAO OPs only. Any MERIT member assigned to one of its teams may utilize a DCTF talk group as assigned according to MERIT policy.

- DCTF 1-2 used for SWAT/CNT
- DCTF 3-4 used for Surveillance and Investigations (MERIT/SAO)
- DCTF 5 used for Emergency Operations

Agency Local Talk Group(s): MERIT Major Crash Reconstruction Team (MCRT) members to use requesting agency's local talk group on call out. This is a low priority channel and suitable for reconstruction radio traffic that is localized to a specific area.

Interop 1-8 for non-DEDIRS agencies will allow participants to be patched to other talks groups (such as local) as needed.

TAC 1-15 Access for non-DEDIRS agencies in the event ongoing operations are already in progress.

MERIT designated talk groups should not be monitored by non-MERIT DEDIRS members or MERIT team members when not assigned to a MERIT task.

## III. Assignment of Talk Groups and Permission

### a. Access:

#### i. MERIT Members who are DEDIRS Members:

1. MERIT DEDIRS member police agency personnel shall have access to MERIT encrypted talk groups.
2. MERIT DEDIRS member fire agencies personnel assigned to MERIT shall have access to MERIT encrypted talk groups.

#### ii. MERIT Members who are Non-DEDIRS Members

1. Only police and fire personnel assigned to MERIT shall have access to MERIT talk groups.

b. MERIT shall have the sole authority to approve non-DEDIRS members for access to its talk groups, so long as the grade of service is not impacted by the addition of a new member. Upon approval of this policy, any new members approved by MERIT according to their policy shall be provided access to the DCTF talk groups upon written notification to DuPage ETSB. DuPage ETSB agrees to inform MERIT if the grade of service level approaches capacity as soon as it is known.

c. MERIT shall have the sole authority to remove non-DEDIRS members from access to its talk groups. Upon approval of this policy, any new members approved by MERIT according to their policy shall be provided access to the DCTF talk groups upon written notification to DuPage ETSB.

- i. ETSB shall deny access to any non-MERIT talk groups provided to a removed MERIT user/portable radio unless that user or portable has permission for the use of DEDIRS talk groups separate and apart from their MERIT affiliation pursuant to ETSB Policy 911-005.2: Access to DEDIRS.

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IV. Illinois Terrorism Task Force Talk Groups (ITTF)  
Assigned ITTF talk groups, specifically 4a and 4b, shall not be utilized by MERIT for any radio activity as defined by their charter. These talk groups have a specific purpose in the Illinois Tactical plan. These talk groups are not encrypted and could pose a risk to sensitive MERIT operations.

Policy adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

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Greg Schwarze, Chairman

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