



Polk County Joint 911 Service Board

METRO INTEROPERABILITY COMMITTEE

MARCH 2025 MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Thursday, March 27, 2025
11:00

Location:

Polk County EMA
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314

Virtual Option:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82426449540>

Meeting ID: 824 2644 9540

In-Person Attendance Preferred

I. CALL TO ORDER**II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS****A. MEMBERS**

	Des Moines PD	Polk County SO	Westcom
Frontline Dispatcher	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant
PSAP Leadership	☒ Brad Button	☒ Nick Brockman	☐ Rob Dehnert
Operational FD End User	☐ Michele Bischof	☐ Rob Chiappano	☐ Tomme Tysdal
Operational LE End User	☐ Dave Ness	☒ Mark Mohr	☒ Pete Roth
Operational EMS End User	☐ Vacant	☐ Lance Routson	☐ Mark McCulloch
Technical Advisor	☒ Alex Begel	☐ Chris Brodeur	☐ Austin Taffae
Member-at-Large	☒ Dani Lisk	☐ Steve Hoffman	☒ Udell Mentola

B. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS/ADVISORS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ Haley Nichols, Iowa DPS Interop | ☐ Curtis Pion, Polk County SO | ☒ Hannah Short, UnityPoint Health |
| ☐ Chad Roberts, Iowa DPS Interop | ☐ Kevin Schneider, Polk County SO | ☒ Mark Deree, UnityPoint |
| ☒ Joshua Duden, Iowa DPS Interop | ☒ Dave Lockard, Des Moines PD | ☒ Brian Albright, Iowa State Fair |
| ☒ Matt Lehman, W. Des Moines Fire | ☒ Mike Patras, Des Moines PD | |

C. EMA STAFF

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ AJ Mumm | ☒ Cameron Stufflebeam | ☒ Lynn Tazzioli |
| ☒ Dutch Geisinger | ☐ Brett McIntyre | |

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – [FEBRUARY 27, 2025](#) – APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**IV. ICS-205****A. IOWA STATE FAIR – [ATTACHMENT #1](#) (PASSWORD PROTECTED)**

1. In draft; made a few changes from the previous year during planning meeting. Representatives from the Iowa State Fair, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Des Moines, and Polk County were all in attendance. Aiming to have a final draft next month for approval.

B. IRONMAN – [ATTACHMENT #2](#) (PASSWORD PROTECTED)

1. Date of event: June 8 (Sunday). Also made adjustments to this from the previous year during the most recent planning meeting. Next meeting is mid-April. Should have a final draft for approval next month.

C. PRIDEFEST

1. Dates of event: June 6-8. Starting work on a Pridefest ICS-205. This event is mostly Des Moines with other private sector entities and the civil support team assisting.



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D. THE RUCKUS

1. Cancelled for the year.

V. PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

A. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

1. Statewide Tornado Drill was the day before. Received 5 phone calls and 2 emails about it. One email was from DMACC with questions about their internal system; it went off Tuesday for a test and one or two of the campuses did not go off Wednesday for the drill. They were referred to Polk County Communications for troubleshooting. A couple of questions but no complaints this year for the drill.
2. The Wednesday before a monthly warning is scheduled to be held, Emergency Management will push out the weather prediction for test day to the PSAPs and, as a collective, a decision will be made to test or not test. Once the decision is made, it is pushed out wider to the Emergency Management Commission, PSAPs, fire chiefs, police chiefs, and public works.

B. RINO 2.0

1. No updates.

C. CAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

1. Testing has been stalled for a couple weeks due to Spring Break. AJ put together a new CAD Improvement Project Update that goes out every Friday after the testing. Testing resumes tomorrow (3/28/2025).

D. ALERT IOWA

1. Built alerting for Urbandale FD/city officials. Right now, we only have automatic alerts for weather and templates built for Chief Cardwell or Bingham to activate the COC. We were able to build this using Chief Cardwell's phone number as the number shown on Caller ID.

E. IMED

1. Grant money is still paused. Everything else is in a holding pattern until this changes.

F. POLK COUNTY EMS COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

1. Working on putting together a group to try to create a unified Polk County EMS communications plan. A small group of communications, fire/EMS, and hospital system representatives are scheduled to meet on April 7th.

G. ACTIVE THREAT WORKGROUP COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE AAR

1. After-action review/improvement plan from McIntyre should be distributed soon if it hasn't already been.
2. One idea floated during the discussion after the exercise was the creation of a specific "MCI Zone" of talkgroups named or aliased specifically to the functions identified in the exercise for use during the initial response phase of an active threat/MCI event. A general theme that pops up often during after-action reviews of active threat/MCI exercises and actual events is responders being on the incorrect talkgroup – whether they're in the wrong region/subregion (R1TAC15 vs SR1TAC115), or talkgroup within the correct region (SR1TAC115 vs SR1TAC116). Having a talkgroup with an alias matching the function the responder is assigned to may help to alleviate confusion (LAW, STAGING, MEDICAL, TRANSPORT, PERIMETER, FIRE vs regional or subregional talkgroups assigned on the fly based on availability in the moment). It was also proposed as an option to ease one aspect of the response during a critical time within the incident when the bandwidth responders have to dedicate to hearing and remembering the correct radio assignments is low. Further discussion within the group highlighted the need to continue the discussion; the intention to add these talkgroups rather than renaming current ones, where they would be added (ISICS, Racom, ISICS+), who would pay, what happens if multiple jurisdictions have the need to use the talkgroups, where they're built in the system, at what level (subregional, regional, statewide), whether we want to add more talkgroups when we already have so many, how training plays into it, and whether the infrastructure can handle more traffic across more talkgroups.



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3. A small workgroup will convene to work through the feasibility of this idea or if another solution can be identified. Committee members were asked to advise whether they're interested in being a part of this group by next Friday (4/4/2025).

VI. INTEROPERABILITY INCIDENTS & OPPORTUNITIES – NONE

VII. UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- A. [APCO/NENA CONFERENCE](#) – APRIL 28-29, DES MOINES AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN
- B. [COM-T](#) – JUNE 2-6, CEDAR RAPIDS

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

A. AST SPACEMOBILE WEBINAR

1. AT&T / FirstNet webinar demoing AST SpaceMobile is scheduled for the same day and time of our next Metro Interop meeting. The group was asked whether they'd rather hold the regular meeting as scheduled or meet and join the webinar during our normal meeting time and extend the ending time to ensure we can still touch base on things we need to, such as ICS-205s planned to be coming up for a vote. The group decided on the latter.

IX. 2025 MEETINGS

Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 11:00

Thursday, November 27, 2025 at 11:00*

Thursday, December 25, 2025 at 11:00*