

Statewide Interoperability Talk Groups

Mutual Aid

The original concept for MARCS was based upon communication deficiencies experienced during the Lucasville prison riots as well as the Shadyside flooding several years ago. There were several agencies working both of these incidents, performing common tasks but were unable to speak with each other during each incident. In an effort to resolve this communication problem, several interoperability talkgroups were developed.

The interoperability talkgroups are as follows:

MCALL 1 thru 4

MARCS “Hailing Channel”, Zones 1-4 (see map titled “MARCS Zones”) Allows any user to call for help from anywhere in the state. These talkgroups are monitored 24/7 by all OSHP Posts within the physical limits of each Zone. The talkgroups are also monitored 24/7 by ODNR’s Columbus Central Dispatch. (It is preferred the call be directed to the zone the call originates from, but is not required.)

MCOMM 1 thru 4

MARCS users generic talkgroups for any user to be able to talk to any other user. These talkgroups are NOT monitored by MARCS base locations. Generally, a dispatcher would direct you to “go to MCOMM 1 to talk to Officer A,” etc. (While each MCOMM has statewide capability, the theoretical purpose is for “direct” communications in each geographic Zone.)

ECOMM 7 thru 28

MARCS users generic “emergency” talk groups. To be used to talk to any other user when involved in a MARCS-coordinated emergency. At a multi-agency scene, Command/ Communications/Control would steer responders to these talkgroups, based on functional work groups. (E.g. A MARCS-equipped CCC would direct “All incoming traffic units go to ECOMM 9”, “all incoming rescue units go to ECOMM 11”, “all incoming hot zone units go to ECOMM12”, etc.) E-COMM 7-20 will be coordinated through ODNR/OSHP Comm. Centers. E-COMM 21-28 utilized for Homeland Security Regions 1-8 (HS Region 1 - use ECOMM21).

SCOMM 7 thru 12

MARCS users generic “emergency” talk groups for communication with the OEMA Transportable Communication System (TCS). To be used to talk to any other user when involved in a MARCS-coordinated emergency *only* when the OEMA TCS is deployed. As with the ECOMMs, units would be “steered” to these talkgroups by OEMA TCS personnel.

LECOMM 1 through LECOMM 8

MARCS non-state agency users generic “event/emergency” talk groups - offers the ability to talk to any other non-state user when involved in a planned event or emergency. These talkgroups are NOT monitored by MARCS. (Prior to using, caller must announce intent to use and determine if objections exist. These LECOMM talkgroups are specifically for “local” event/emergency situations, and are only imbedded in non-state agency equipment.)

MARCS 1 thru 14 & Repeater

These are talkgroups established for additional interoperability between MARCS users. They may be used for state or local emergency coordination if desired. These talkgroups are a new addition to the statewide interoperability suite and may not be available in all radios in the state. Two repeater talkgroups included.

SFM-HQ, SFM-OPS 1-5, OFCA1-2, OSFA-1

These are mutual aid talkgroups created by the State Fire Marshall and Ohio fire chiefs, respectively for mutual aid purposes during emergencies. Although these are not regularly monitored, they will be assigned by the Incident Commander on site during emergencies and monitored at that time.

8ICALLTA, 8ITAC1TA through 8ITAC4TA.

These are the five National Public Safety Analog Talk-Around Frequencies. All five of these talkgroups are available for local, off the system, analog “walkie-talkie” communications. (Due to being analog, static may be noticed. Range is three miles or less, depending on terrain. Allows MARCS radio users to talk to ANY 800 radio programmed with these talkgroups.)

SO 01 thru SO 88

Each Sheriff in the state is equipped with a MARCS base radio. These radios are placed in the communication center of the sheriff’s choice. By calling the alpha-based two digit county number (e.g. “GPD Car 321 to SO 59”); you will be communicating with the Sheriff’s Communication Center. Also, the OSHP post in a county monitors that county’s SO talkgroup and those SO talkgroups of adjacent counties.

SO Regions

These talkgroups correspond with the geographic regions established by BSSA and MARCS during the planning for the MARCS radio installations at each SO. They follow established ODNR boundaries - see attached map titled “Sheriff Offices”. Calling on an SO regional talkgroup will result in all SO’s within that region being hailed. ODNR’s central dispatch center in Columbus also monitors these talkgroups.

OIT Helpdesk

This talkgroup is constantly monitored by the Ohio Office of Information Technology/MARCS-dedicated helpdesk, located at the State of Ohio Computer Center in Columbus. The Helpdesk primary purpose is to assist MARCS equipment users with problems encountered with the MARCS voice or data systems statewide. It can also be used as the initial point of contact for MARCS command staff. Helpdesk may also be reached 24/7 @ 1-866-OH-MARCS (1-866-646-2727).

LF-DISP, LIFEFLT, MEDEVAC1, MEDFLT, CAREFLT

These are talkgroups established for contacting “air ambulances” in Ohio. LF-DISP and LIFEFLT (Toledo LifeFlight) and MEDFLT (MedFlight Columbus) are monitored by their respective Communications Centers. MEDEVAC1 (MedEvac-Cleveland) and CAREFLT (CareFlight-Dayton) are not monitored on a daily basis, therefore, it is recommended contact be made via land line with each respective air ambulance to set up and incorporate these talkgroups into your agency communications plan.

Customer-Specific Talkgroups

MARCS will work with each customer to design unique talkgroups to be used by the customer for normal internal traffic. The number of talkgroups allowed is determined by agency scope, size and service delivery. (Four to eight unique talkgroups per agency will be the default.)

Inter-Agency Talkgroups

MARCS firmly advocates and aggressively pursues multi-agency sharing of agency specific talkgroups. MARCS encourages agencies to share agency-specific talkgroups, in order to promote user-friendly end-user applications. These become especially important and beneficial in emergency situations, when stress levels are high and first responders do not have time to “get out the book” and search for little or never used “special” talkgroups. To this end, MARCS encourages users to discuss inter-agency sharing of agency specific talkgroups and the routine use of same!

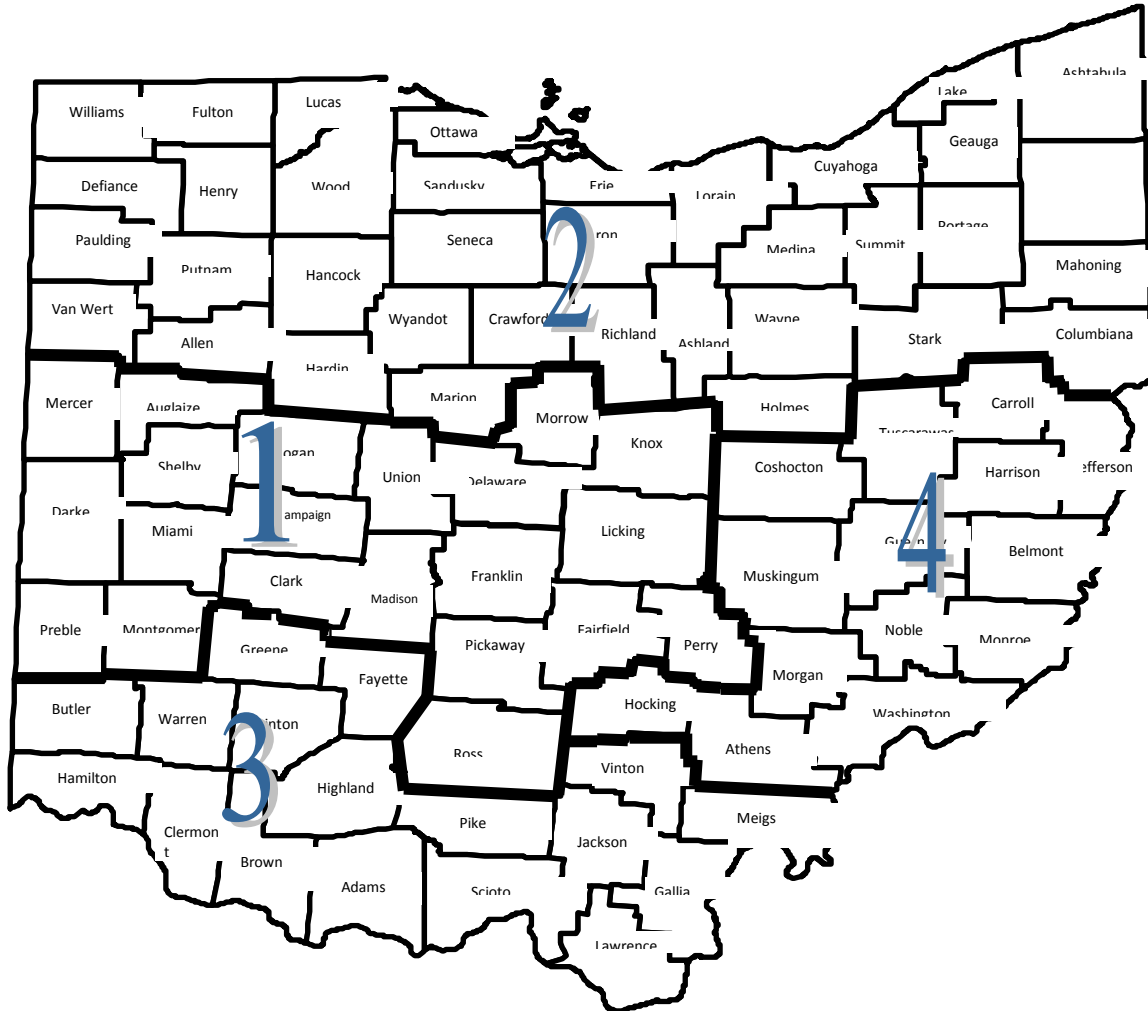
Also explained in this booklet are:

- NUC BV, NUC DB, NUC Perry (restricted to fallout zones)
- National Weather Service (NWS-CLEV, NWS-PITT, NWS-WILM, NWS-CHAR, NWS-NWEB)
- EMA Regions (EMA-CONE, COSE, CONW, COSW, COC) Restricted to county EMA, local EMA and some fire departments

MCALL 1-4

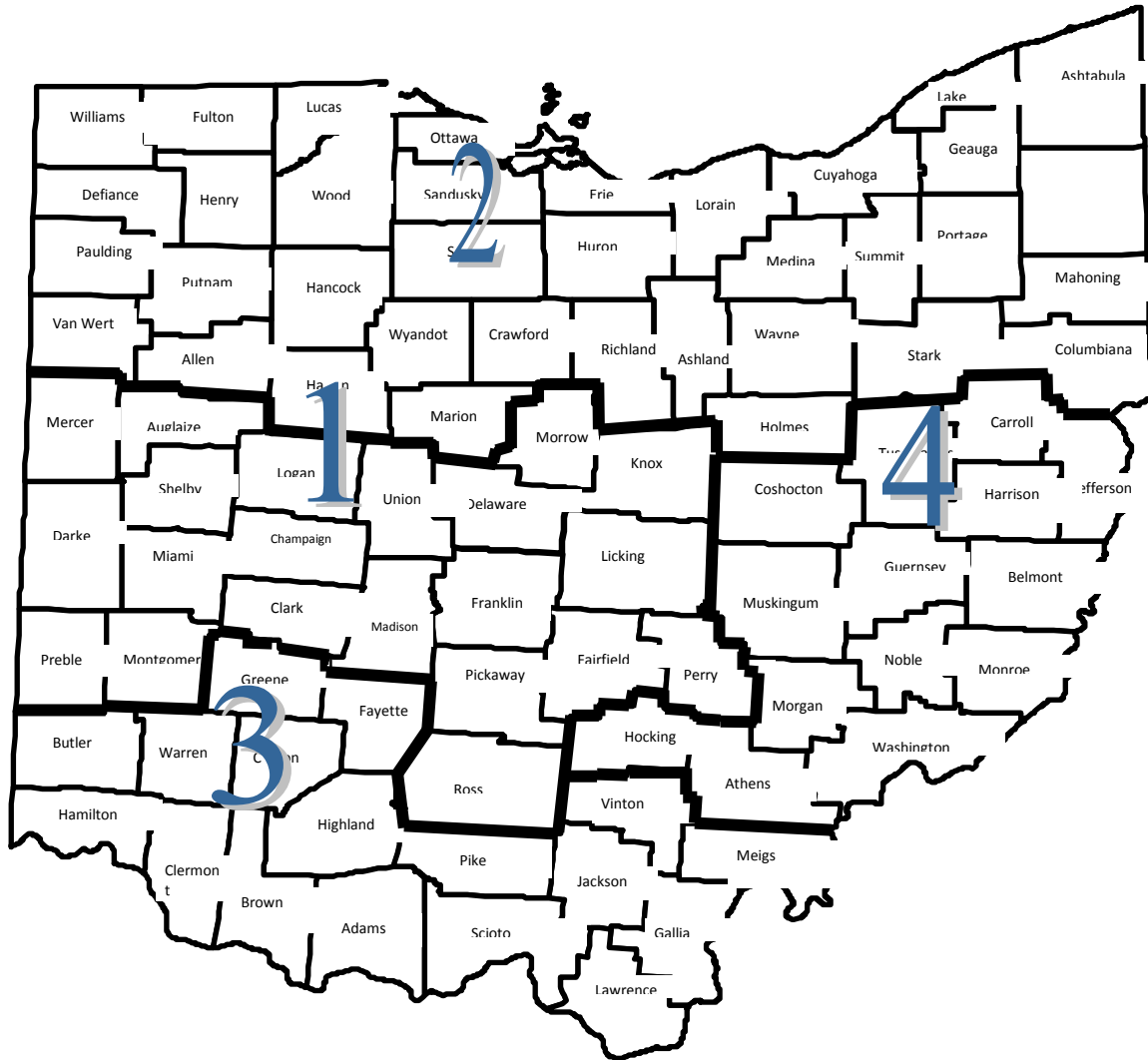
MCALL is the MARCS “Hailing Channel” for Zones 1-4. The map shows boundaries for each zone in Ohio. MCALL allows any user to call for help from anywhere in the state. *These talkgroups are monitored 24/7 by all OSHP Posts within the physical limits of each Zone.* MCALL is also monitored 24/7 by ODNR’s Columbus Central Dispatch. When using MCALL it is preferred the call is directed to the zone in which the call originates from, but is not required.

AS THE DESIGNATED INCIDENT COMMANDER AT THE SITE OF AN EMERGENCY, YOU CAN USE MCALL TO HAIL DNR AND REQUESTCOMM TALKGROUPS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION COORDINATION.



MCOMM 1-4

MCOMM is a generic talkgroup for any user to be able to talk to any other user. These talkgroups are NOT MONITORED by MARCS base locations. Generally, a dispatcher would direct you to “go to MCOMM 1 to talk to Officer A,” etc. While each MCOMM has statewide capability, the theoretical purpose is for “direct” communications in each geographic zone.



ECOMM 7-12

ECOMM is the MARCS users' generic "emergency" talkgroup. ECOMM is to be used to talk to any other user when involved in a state-coordinated emergency. At a multi-agency scene, the Incident Command/Communications/Control would steer responders to these talkgroups, based on functional work groups. (E.g. A MARCS-equipped Incident Commander would direct "All incoming traffic units go to ECOMM 9; all incoming rescue units go to ECOMM 11; all incoming hot zone units go to ECOMM 12", etc.). In other words, ECOMM talkgroups are assigned by an incident commander for tactical use.

ECOMM is available for all agencies using the MARCS communication system. However, it is suggested you contact the Emergency Management Agency to see if another agency is using ECOMM. This way, you can avoid using the same talkgroups during separate emergencies.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER MAY REQUEST ECOMM TALKGROUPS BY CONTACTING ODNR CENTRAL DISPATCH THROUGH THE MCALL 1-4 TALKGROUPS.

ECOMM 13-28 Homeland Security

There are zones in your radio designated for the Federal Homeland Security talkgroups ECOMM 13-28. The Homeland Security Communications Technical Advisory Committee decided to use some of the ECOMM talkgroups by region. They are assigned as follows:



Region	ECOMM	Region	ECOMM
Northwest	21	Northeast Central	25
Northeast	22	Southwest	26
West Central	23	Southeast (Upper)	27
Central	24	Southeast (Lower)	28

LECOMM 1 through LECOMM 8

LECOMM is the MARCS non-state agency users' generic "emergency" talkgroup. These talkgroups offer the ability to talk to any other non-state user when involved in an emergency. These talkgroups are NOT monitored by any state MARCS agency. *Prior to using, the user must announce intent to use and determine if objections exist. These LECOMM talkgroups are specifically for "local" emergency situations, and are only embedded in non-state agency equipment.*

LECOMM 1-8 is generally used in a tactical way. An incident commander would designate a talkgroup to you based upon the tasks assigned to you during an incident. A scenario may go like this:

LECOMM 1	Agencies/individuals working traffic control
LECOMM 2	Agencies/individuals working search and rescue
LECOMM 3	Agencies/individuals working evacuation

As indicated above, a designated incident commander would direct you the appropriate talkgroups.

SCALL and SCOMM 1-12

- SCALL is only used when the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) deploys the Transportable Communication System (TCS).
- TCS is a mobile communication site used when additional resources have been used in response to an emergency. The TCS can act as a standalone tower site or as a base command center.
- You will be informed by the Emergency Management Agency when the TCS has been deployed and future emergency tactical communications are to be done on SCALL.

If you attempt to communicate on SCALL when the TCS is not deployed, you only receive a “honk” tone on your control station.

- SCOMM 1-12 are to be used with the EMA Transportable Communication System (TCS). You must be directed by the communication branch to use these talkgroups.

If you attempt to communicate on SCOMM when the TCS is not deployed, you only receive a “honk” tone on your control station.

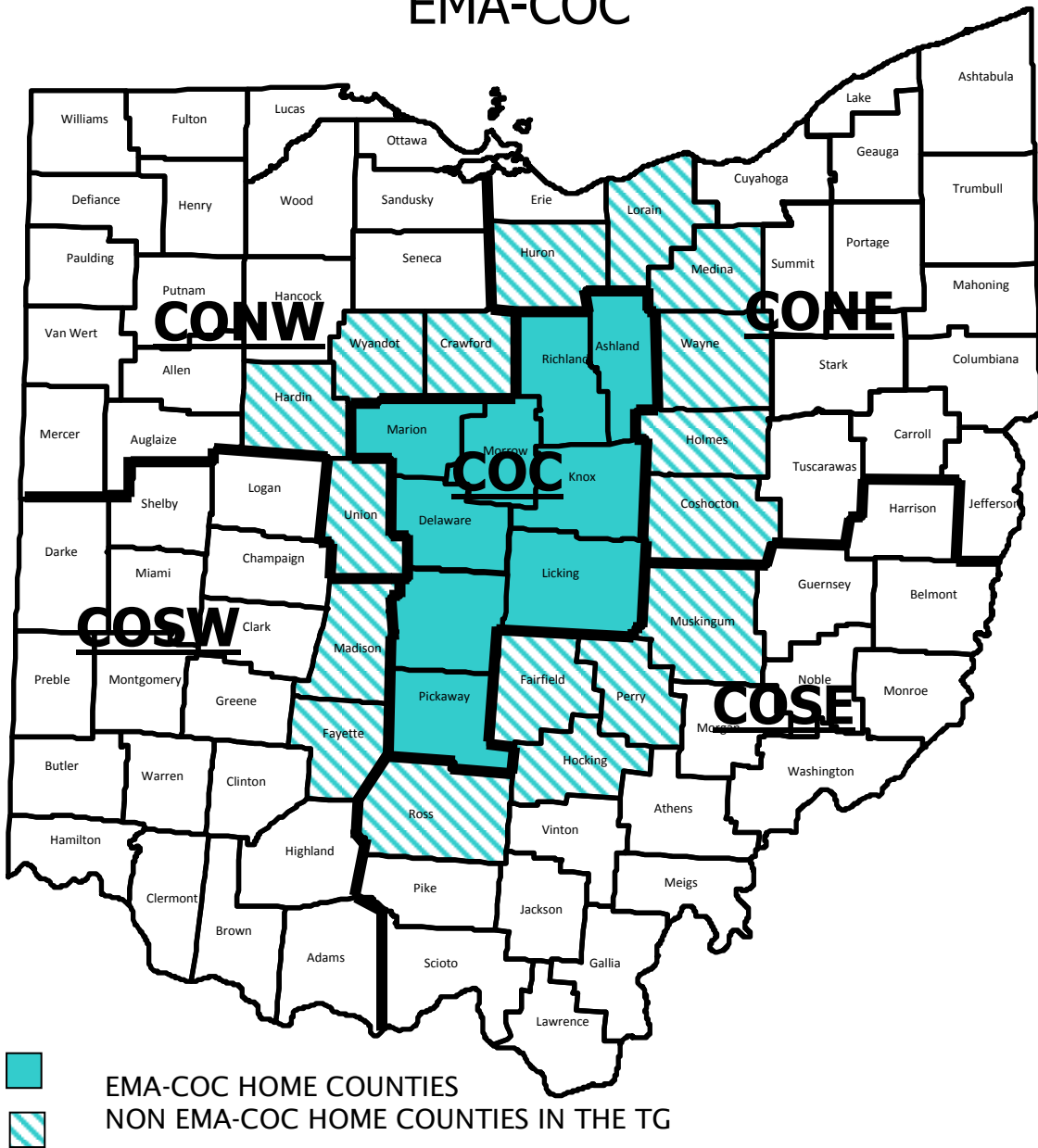
Zone XX
SCALL 1
SCOMM 1
SCOMM 2
SCOMM 3
SCOMM 4
SCOMM 5
SCOMM 6
SCOMM 7
SCOMM 8
SCOMM 9
SCOMM 10
SCOMM 11
SCOMM 12

EMA Regional (EMA-COC, EMA-COSE, EMA-COSW, EMA-Ohio, EMA-CONE, EMA-CONW)

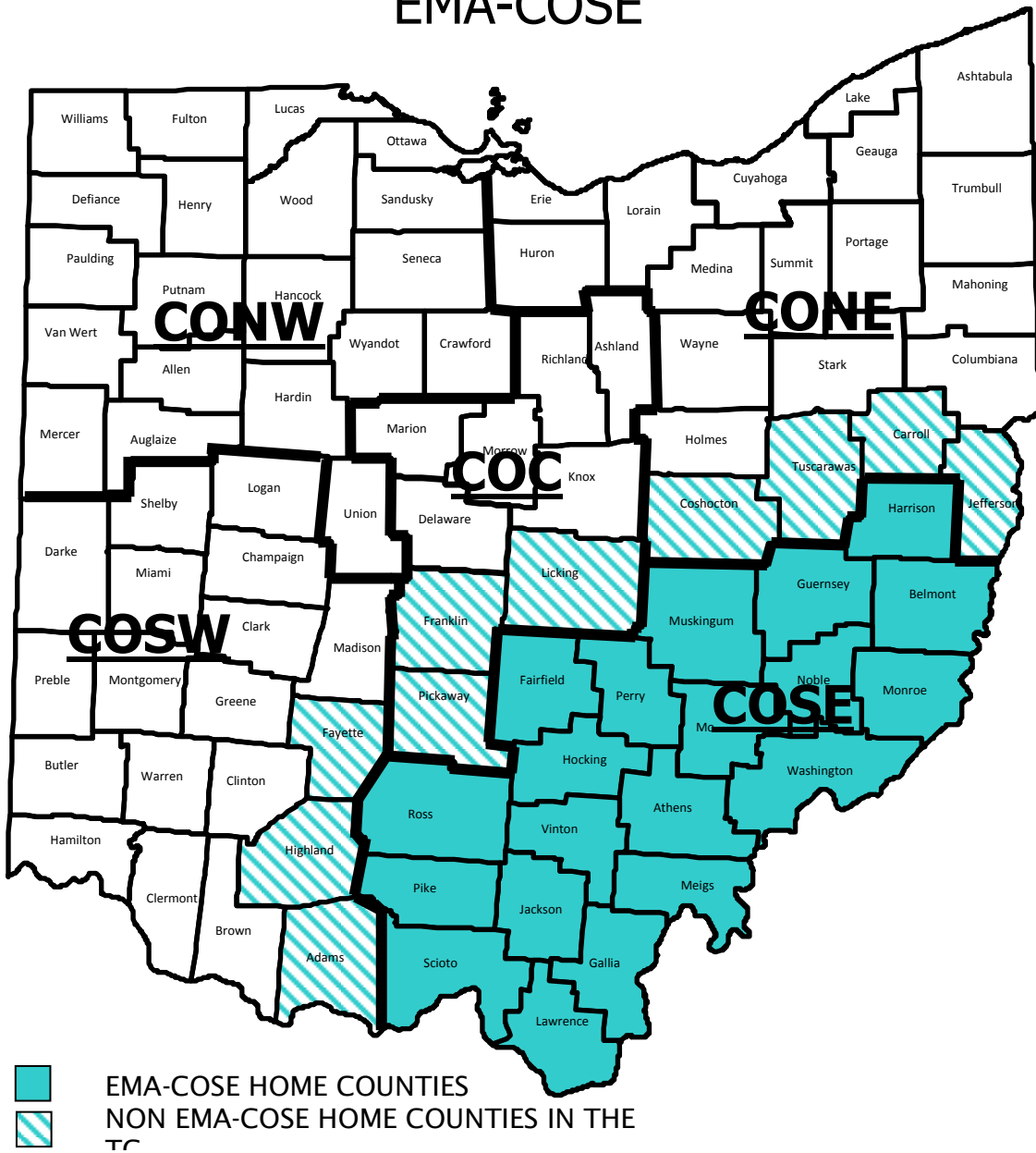
- These are the EMA regional talkgroups.
- If you need to contact a local EMA agency you use one of the EMA regional talkgroups.
- The maps on pages 34 through 38 indicate what counties are included in each region.
- Notice there is a “shaded” area as well as “slashed” area indicated on the maps.
- EMA programmed their talkgroups to include adjacent counties in each region for logistical purposes.
- EMA-OHIO is restricted to Ohio Emergency Management vehicles.

Zone XX
EMA-COC
EMA-COSE
EMA-COSW
EMA-OHIO
EMA-CONW
EMA-CONE

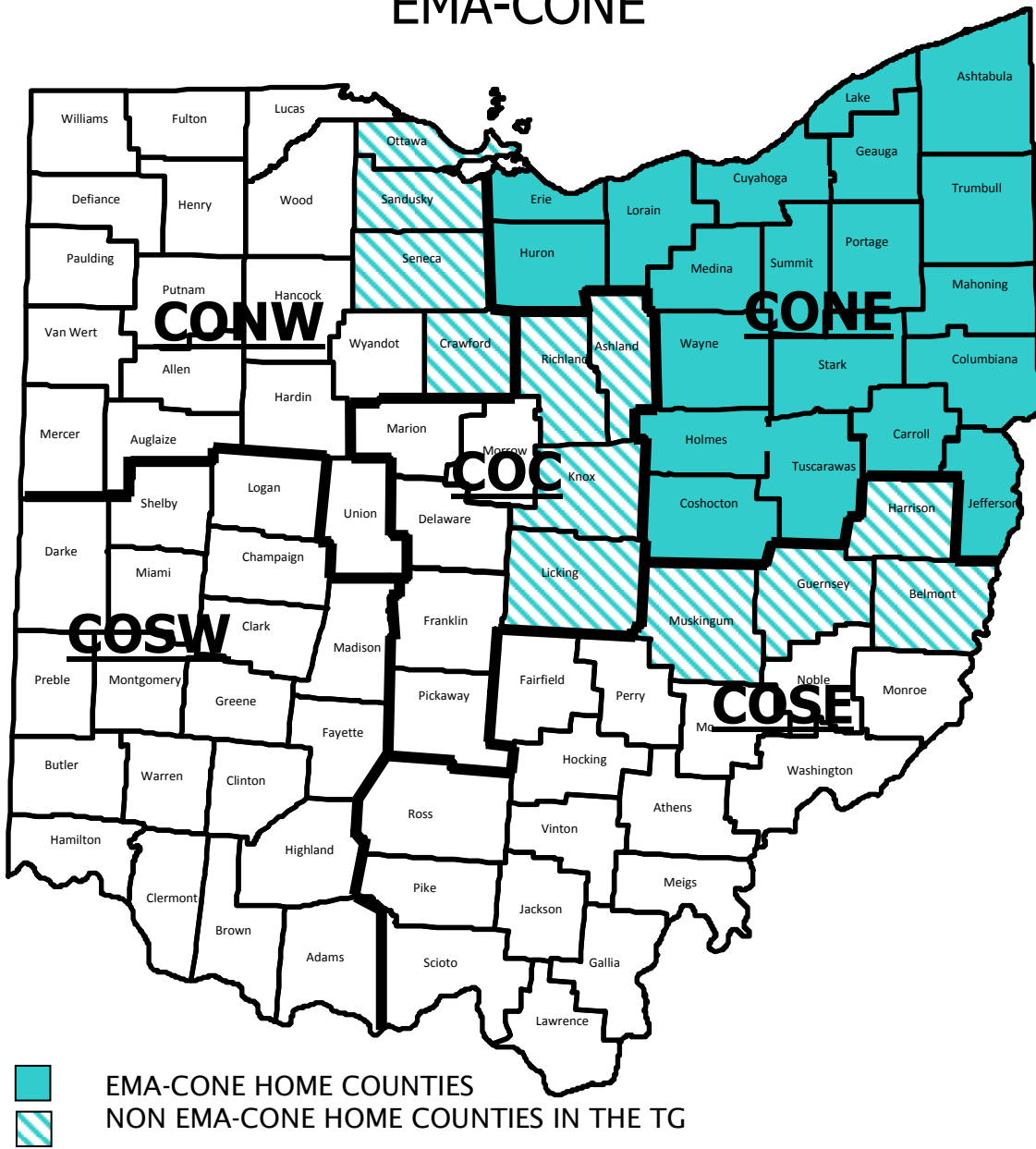
EMA-COC



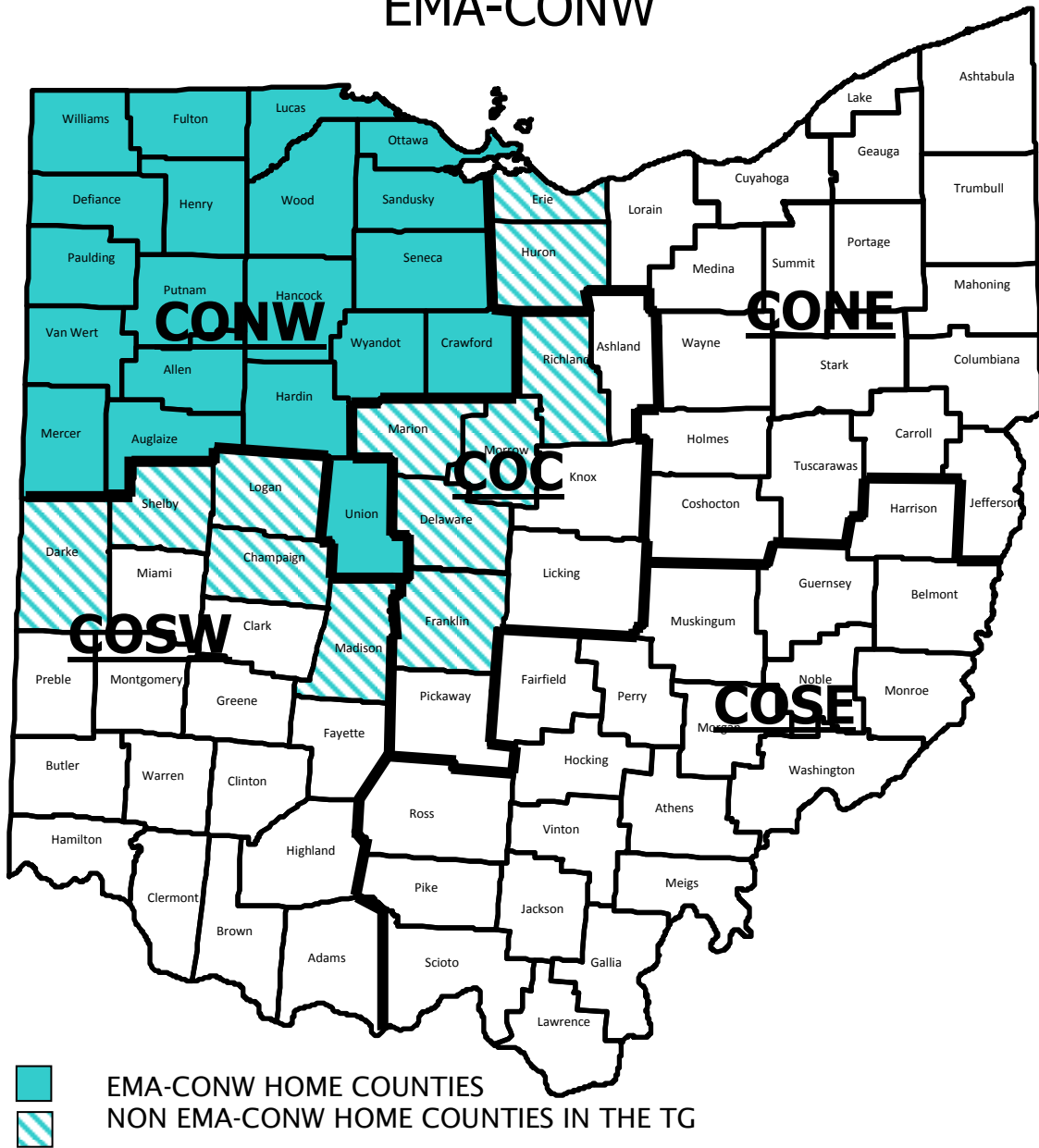
EMA-COSE



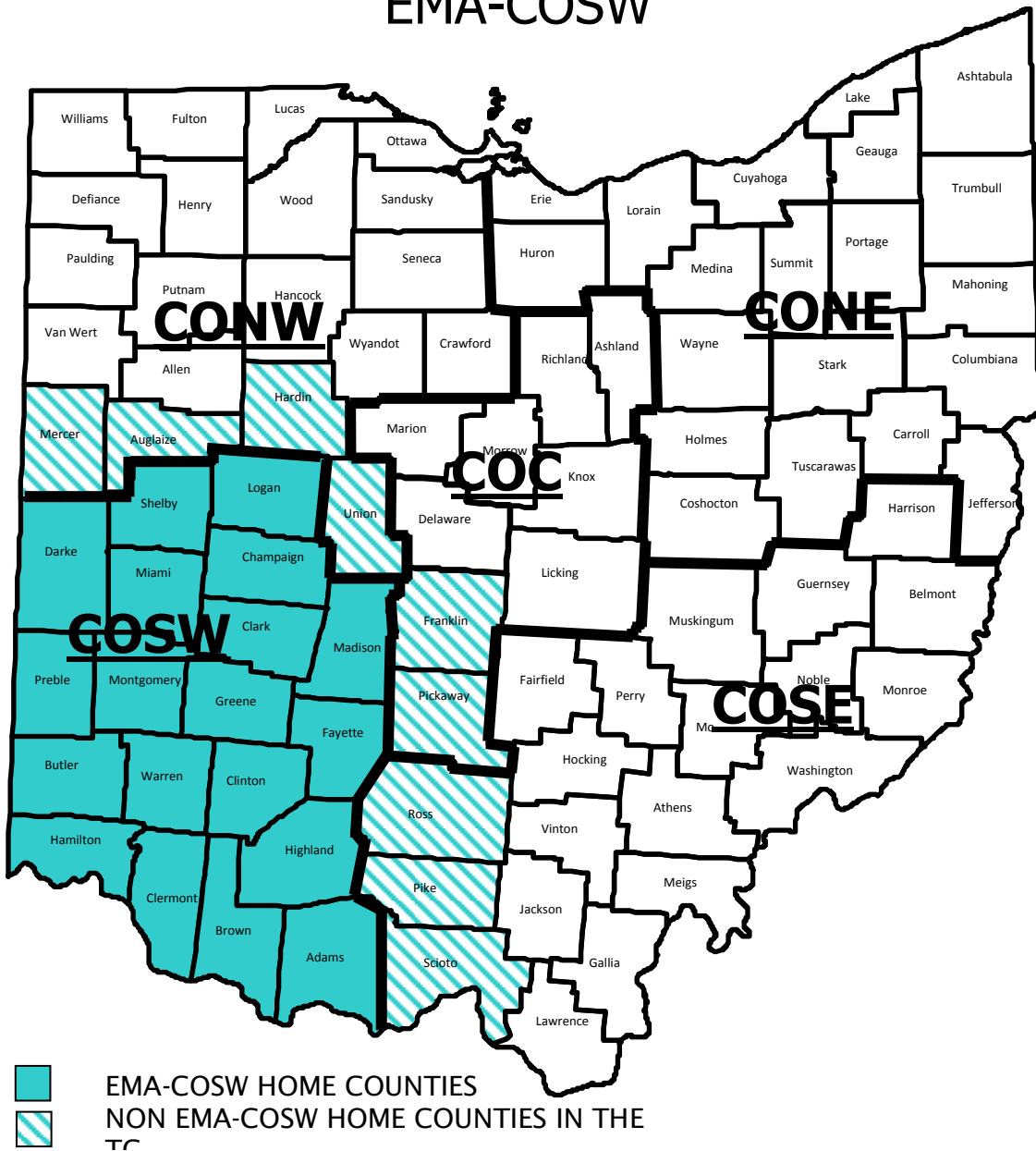
EMA-CONE



EMA-CONW



EMA-COSW



NUC (NUCLEAR)

- These talkgroups were created for communicating in and near counties with nuclear power plants.
- The NUC talkgroups will be supported by county emergency response agencies surrounding counties near nuclear power plants. This includes the county sheriff offices in the surrounding areas. The maps on pages 40-48 indicate these counties.
- NUC-DB is associated with Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant (Ottawa, Sandusky, Lucas)
- NUC-BV is associated with Beaver Creek Nuclear Power Plant (Columbiana)
- NUC-Perry is directly associated with the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula)
- EMA-Rad should only be used with direct permission from the Ohio Emergency Management agency.

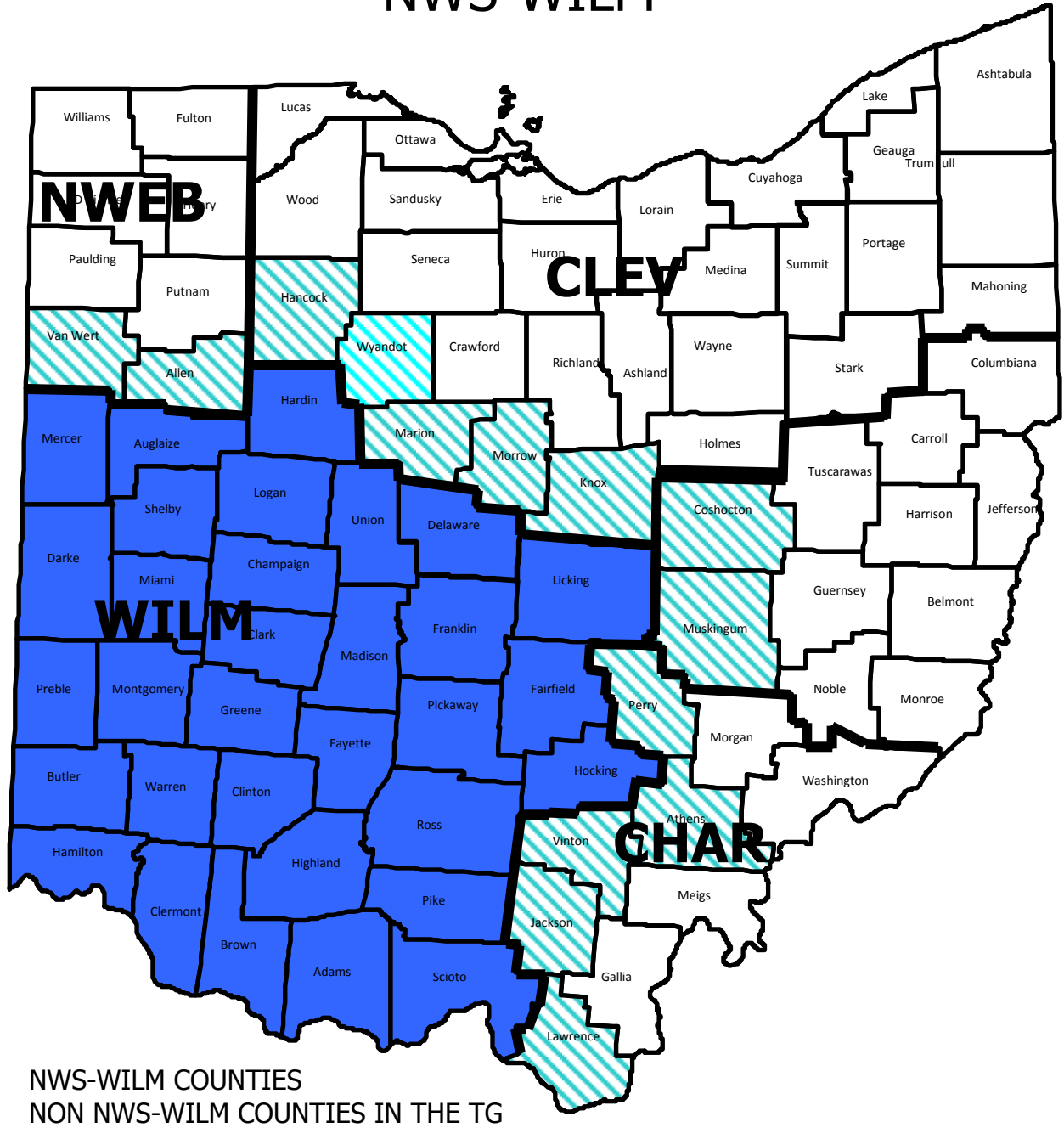
Zone XX
EMA Rad
Nuc DB
Nuc Perry
Nuc BV

National Weather Service (NWS)

- The NWS talkgroups are used for communicating with the National Weather Service office and counties who are in that area for weather related business
- The maps on the next few pages indicate NWS areas for each NWS office. The “shaded” area is for the immediate area. The “slashed” areas are overlap areas that are also covered in NWS radios.
- Scenario: Someone discovers tornadoes approaching. You could communicate that information directly to NWS
- The National Weather Service talkgroups are not programmed into the local health or local hospital radios. These users could contact the local sheriff if they need weather updates.

Zone XX
NWS-CLEV
NWS-PITT
NWS-WILM
NWS-CHAR
NWS-NWEB

NWS-WILM



SO-01 through SO-88

Each county sheriff office in the state is equipped with a MARCS control station radio. These radios are placed in the communication center of the sheriff’s office. By calling the alpha-based two digit county number (e.g. “GPD CAR 321 to SO-59”); you will be communicating with the Sheriff’s Communication Center. Also, the OSHP post in a county will monitor that county’s SO talkgroup and those SO talkgroups of adjacent counties.

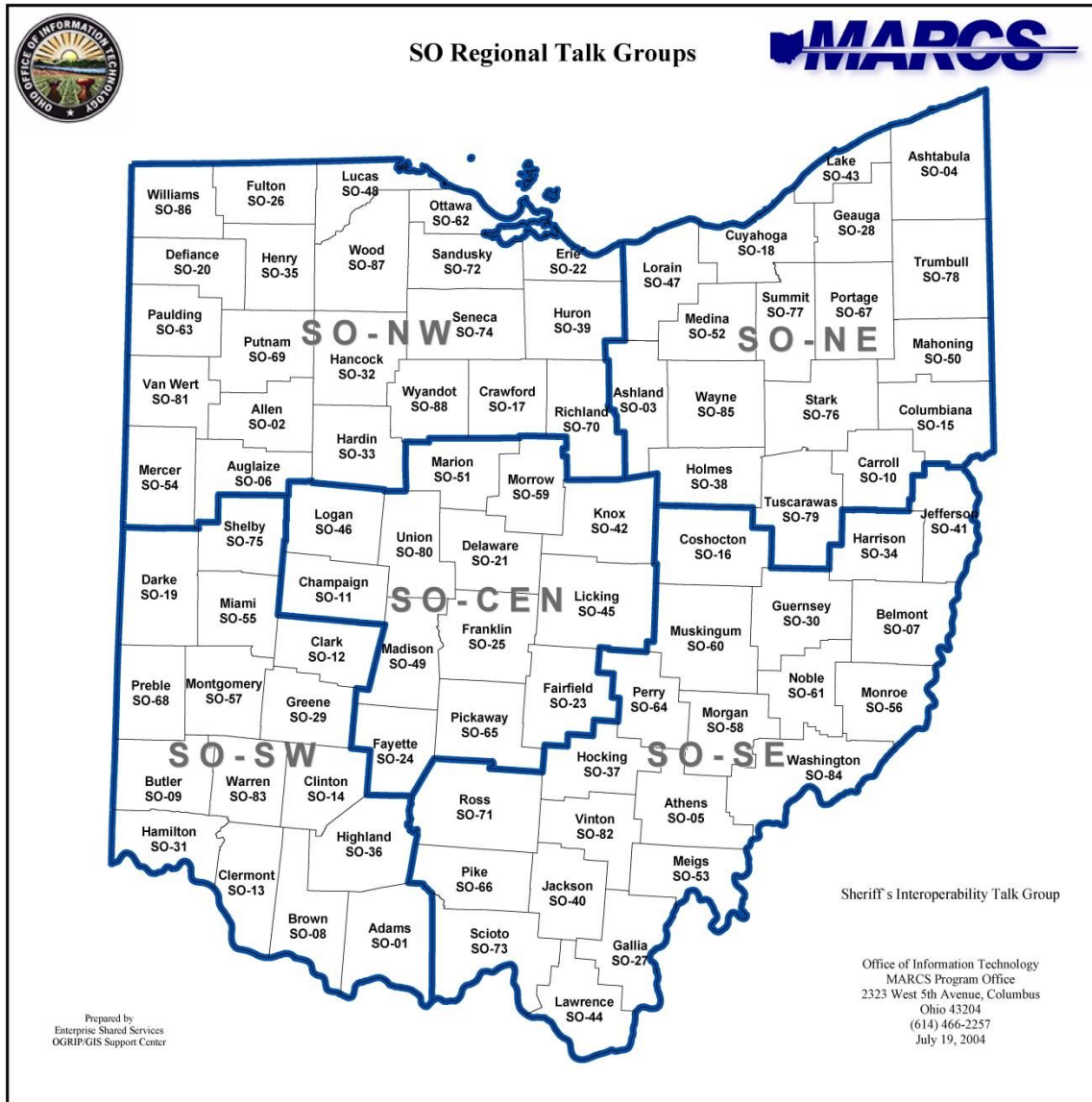
Zone XX	Zone XX	Zone XX	Zone XX	Zone XX	Zone XX	Zone XX
SO-01	SO-17	SO-33	SO-49	SO-65	SO-81	SO Central
SO-02	SO-18	SO-34	SO-50	SO-66	SO-82	SO NW
SO-03	SO-19	SO-35	SO-51	SO-67	SO-83	SO NE
SO-04	SO-20	SO-36	SO-52	SO-68	SO-84	SO SW
SO-05	SO-21	SO-37	SO-53	SO-69	SO-85	SO SE
SO-06	SO-22	SO-38	SO-54	SO-70	SO-86	
SO-07	SO-23	SO-39	SO-55	SO-71	SO-87	
SO-08	SO-24	SO-40	SO-56	SO-72	SO-88	
SO-09	SO-25	SO-41	SO-57	SO-73		
SO-10	SO-26	SO-42	SO-58	SO-74		
SO-11	SO-27	SO-43	SO-59	SO-75		
SO-12	SO-28	SO-44	SO-60	SO-76		
SO-13	SO-29	SO-45	SO-61	SO-77		
SO-14	SO-30	SO-46	SO-62	SO-78		
SO-15	SO-31	SO-47	SO-63	SO-79		
SO-16	SO-32	SO-48	SO-64	SO-80		

Sheriff Office Regions

The state is divided up onto 5 sheriff office regions indicated below.

If you need to communicate with a geographical region of sheriff offices, you may do so by zoning over and dialing down to SO-CEN, SO-NW, SO-NE, SO-SW, and SO-SE. A map showing the geographical boundaries is below.

THESE ARE MONITORED BY ODNR CENTRAL DISPATCH



Sheriff Office Radio ID Numbers

01 Adams	730164	31 Hamilton	730169	61 Noble	740174
02 Allen	723788	32 Hancock	723746	62 Ottawa	722287
03 Ashland	722275	33 Hardin	723747	63 Paulding	723749
04 Ashtabula	722274	34 Harrison	740178	64 Perry	712277
05 Athens	740171	35 Henry	723790	65 Pickaway	712278
06 Auglaize	713175	36 Highland	730174	66 Pike	730228
07 Belmont	740177	37 Hocking	730172	67 Portage	722288
08 Brown	730165	38 Holmes	722281	68 Preble	713177
09 Butler	730166	39 Huron	722282	69 Putnam	723787
10 Carroll	740180	40 Jackson	730230	70 Richland	722289
11 Champaign	713179	41 Jefferson	740179	71 Ross	712279
12 Clark	713182	42 Knox	712273	72 Sandusky	722290
13 Clermont	730167	43 Lake	722283	73 Scioto	730229
14 Clinton	730173	44 Lawrence	730231	74 Seneca	722291
15 Columbiana	722276	45 Licking	712274	75 Shelby	713174
16 Coshocton	740004	46 Logan	712275	76 Stark	722292
17 Crawford	722277	47 Lorain	722284	77 Summit	722293
18 Cuyahoga	722278	48 Lucas	723751	78 Trumbull	722294
19 Darke	713178	49 Madison	711398	79 Tuscarawas	740181
20 Defiance	723744	50 Mahoning	722285	80 Union	712280
21 Delaware	712270	51 Marion	722297	81 Van Wert	723748
22 Erie	722279	52 Medina	722286	82 Vinton	730234
23 Fairfield	712271	53 Meigs	730233	83 Warren	730170
24 Fayette	730172	54 Mercer	713180	84 Washington	740173
25 Franklin	712272	55 Miami	713181	85 Wayne	722295
26 Fulton	723750	56 Monroe	740175	86 Williams	723745
27 Gallia	730232	57 Montgomery	713176	87 Wood	723318
28 Geauga	722280	58 Morgan	740129	88 Wyandot	722296
29 Greene	730168	59 Morrow	712276		
30 Guernsey	740176	60 Muskingum	740004		

Every sheriff office communications center in Ohio has a W7 control station. Above lists their specific SO number as well as their private call number.

National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee Conventional 800 MHz, Standard Public Safety Template (NPSPAC)

These are the National Public Safety Analog Talk-Around Frequencies. All of these talkgroups are available for local, off the MARCS system, analog “walkie-talkie” communications. (Due to being analog, static may be noticed. Range is three miles, more or less, depending on terrain. NPSPAC allows MARCS radio users to talk to ANY 800 radio programmed with these talkgroups). The “TA” talkgroups are strictly line of sight. The transmissions do not go through a NPSPAC repeater.

You can communicate with any law enforcement agency that currently uses an 800 MHz system by using the “ZONE” function and then using the “MODE/CHANNEL” function to locate a specific frequency. This feature could be helpful to you if your local police, fire or EMS agencies use 800 MHz frequencies. The TX tone is 156.7 and RX tone is CSQ.

Note: Some agencies have these named NPSPAC (NPCALL, NP TAC, etc.) as opposed to 8I talkgroups. They all use the same frequencies and work the same; they have only been “re-named”.

Display	TX Freq	RX Freq
8I CALL	821.0125	866.0125
8I TAC 1	821.5125	866.5125
8I TAC 2	822.0125	867.0125
8I TAC 3	822.5125	867.5125
8I TAC 4	823.0125	868.0125
8I CALL-TA	866.0125	866.0125
8I TAC1-TA	866.5125	866.5125
8I TAC2-TA	867.0125	867.0125
8I TAC3-TA	867.5125	867.5125
8I TAC4-TA	868.0125	868.0125
AIR MD-1		
AIR MD-2		
TA-1		
TA-2		
TA-3		
8 CALL90		
8 TAC 91		
8 TAC 92		
8 TAC 93		
8 TAC 94		
8 CALL90D		
8 TAC91D		
8 TAC92D		
8 TAC93D		
8 TAC94D		

When you need to call for HELP!!!

HELPDESK

The talkgroup “**HELPDESK**” is programmed into every radio. The helpdesk is monitored 24/7 and can assist you with MARCS related issues.

If the device fails to operate properly, contact the MARCS Network Operations Center (NOC) at **1-866-646-2727**. This center is monitored 24/7 and will assist you in obtaining help with equipment problems.