



WISCOM Functionality and Use

The Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications (WISCOM) system serves as a means of redundant communication for Wisconsin’s seven [healthcare emergency readiness coalitions \(HERCs\)](#) with hospitals, partners, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) during major disaster events and large-scale incident responses. It is vital to maintain these communications in the event of a disruption of normal communication practices, typically by land line or cellphone.

Purpose of WISCOM

WISCOM is a shared statewide very high frequency (VHF) trunked communications system that public safety personnel across the state use to communicate during a major disaster, large-scale incident, or in day-to-day use. This system is all-discipline in nature and can be used as a secondary communications path for ambulance communications between ambulance providers and hospitals. However, because ambulances need to be able to communicate with any hospital in the state, the required conventional VHF emergency medical services (EMS) channels (EMS B, EMS A, and EMS C) still apply as an adjunct to communication.

When to use WISCOM

Hospitals should use WISCOM during region roll-call drills and exercises, as well as during major disaster events and large-scale incident responses.

How to use WISCOM

Hospitals received a talk group channel guide during installation that should remain near the radio and referenced for redundant communication. WISCOM radios have several zones for interoperability. All hospitals have a designated HERC zone containing all talk group channels. Hospitals should keep their WISCOM radio powered on and remain on the region-specific talk group as their home channel. Talk groups are assigned to a specific channel. During an incident, hospitals will communicate on their dedicated region talk group channel, and hospitals in other regions can change their home channel and tune in to other region talk group communications. See below for the list of talk groups by HERC region.

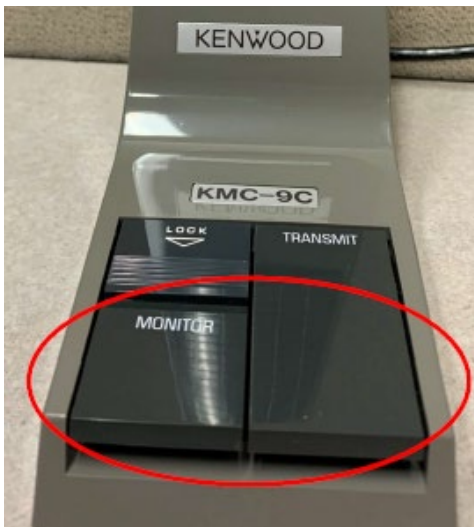
HERC Region	WISCOM Talk Group
Region 1 (Northwest HERC)	HRCRD1 OPEN
Region 2 (North Central HERC)	HRCRD2 OPEN
Region 3 (Northeast HERC)	HRCRD3 OPEN
Region 4 (Western HERC)	HRCRD4 OPEN
Region 5 (South Central HERC)	HRCRD5 OPEN
Region 6 (Fox Valley HERC)	HRCRD6 OPEN
Region 7 (Southeast HERC)	HRCRD7 OPEN

WISCOM diagram and instructions



1. Power Button
2. Volume up/down
3. Radio info
4. Switch between zone/channel
5. Zone/channel up/down

To transmit on WISCOM, hold down the **Monitor** and **Transmit** button at the same time, as shown in the image below. Wait for the "chirp" and then speak directly into the microphone.



Visit the [WISCOM webpage](#) or email the [DHS OPEHC Radio inbox](mailto:DHSOPEHCRadio@dhs.wisconsin.gov) at DHSOPEHCRadio@dhs.wisconsin.gov for more information on redundant communication.