

DMR TG 99 – Simplex

What TalkGroup 99 actually is

TalkGroup 99 (TG 99) is not really a ChicagoLand network talkgroup at all.

☞ It is universally defined in DMR as a **simplex (radio-to-radio) talkgroup**, meaning:

- **No repeater**
- **No c-bridge / network**
- **No internet linking**
- Just **direct radio-to-radio communication**

That's why you won't find TG 99 listed in the ChicagoLand talkgroup matrix — it's not part of their networked talkgroups.

Across DMR systems worldwide, TG 99 is standardized as:

- "Simplex TG"
- Used on a **single frequency, same time slot, same color code**
- Typically **TG = 99, TS = 1, CC = 1**

◇ How it fits into the ChicagoLand system

The ChicagoLand Control Center is a **c-bridge network of repeaters** that carry talkgroups dynamically or statically.

But TG 99:

- **✗ Is not routed through the c-bridge**
- **✗ Does not key up repeaters**
- **✗ Will not show up on CallWatch or dashboards**
- **☑ Only works radio-to-radio on a simplex frequency**

So even if you're "on a ChicagoLand repeater," TG 99 **does nothing useful there.**

◇ How YOU would have set it up in your radio

This is probably what you (or your codeplug) did:

1. Create a contact

- Name: Simplex or TG 99
 - Type: **Group Call**
 - ID: **99**
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2. Create a simplex channel (this is the key part)

Unlike repeater channels, this uses:

- **Same TX/RX frequency** (simplex)
- Example: 446.500, 446.550, etc.
- **Color Code: 1** (typical)
- **Time Slot: 1**
- **TalkGroup: 99**

☞ This matches standard DMR simplex configuration

3. Optional: RX Group List

- Add TG 99 so you hear others
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4. Put it in a “Simplex Zone”

Many codeplugs group these as:


- “Simplex”
 - “Direct”
 - “Talkaround”
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◇ How it actually works in real use

When you key TG 99:

- Your radio transmits **directly on frequency**
- Another nearby DMR radio:
 - Same frequency
 - Same CC
 - Same TS
 - Same TG (99)
- → hears you instantly

Think of it like:

 “Digital version of analog simplex (like 146.520)”

◇ Common confusion (important)

Here’s where people get tripped up:

✘ “I programmed TG 99 on my repeater channel”

- Won’t work (or behaves oddly)
- Repeater ignores it unless specially configured

✘ “It’s a local ChicagoLand talkgroup”

- It is **not**
- It’s global, off-network

☑ “It’s for off-network local comms”

- ✓ Field events
 - ✓ Backup comms
 - ✓ When no repeater / hotspot is available
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◇ Relationship to other “control” talkgroups

You’ve already looked at TG 4000 (unlink). Here’s the contrast:

Talkgroup	Purpose
4000	Control (unlink from network)
9 / 2 / 1	Local repeater talkgroups
99	Simplex only (no repeater at all)

◇ Bottom line

- **TG 99 = Simplex (radio-to-radio)**
 - Not part of ChicagoLand routing
 - You **set it up on a simplex frequency, not a repeater**
 - Used when you want **direct, local communication without the network**
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