



**California Emergency Management Agency
FIRESCOPE
Joint Safety Bulletin
COMMUNICATIONS
JUNE 2011**



The following information reflects those communications changes taking place this spring that will have an immediate effect on the California Fire Service:

CALFIRE – Has narrow banded and tone-protected Command, Local, and Tactical nets in the mobile and portable radios. All agencies with CAL FIRE frequencies programmed in their radios must have the correct frequencies and the appropriate tones programmed into their radios or they may not have the ability to communicate with CALFIRE or other incident personnel. For additional information, you may contact Glen Savage – CAL FIRE Communications Manager at: (916) 653-5123

Cal EMA Fire Rescue Division – The channel names for WHITE 2 & WHITE 3 have been changed to meet the new national standard for common channel nomenclature. Specific details are available in the revised Cal EMA Bulletin #28 available from CAL EMA.

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise has made the following changes to their frequencies effective this fire season:

- NIFC TAC 4 is no longer available to the Fire Service and should be deleted from all radios
- Air-to-Ground frequencies have changed within USFS Region 5 (There are a limited number of frequencies now available for Initial Attack and Extended Attack incidents.

Any non-compliant radio equipment used on narrowband channels may present a life-safety hazard for all users. Transmissions from wideband radios on narrowband channels in a high noise environment may cause a complete muting of the radio's receiver and may cause a dangerous situation for firefighters.

Cal EMA and FIRESCOPE jointly supports the recommendations made by NIFC in respect to: 1) withdrawing from fire operations activities if communications are compromised; 2) ensuring that local frequency management plans are in place; and 3) reporting problems with incident communications through the appropriate established processes.

In addition, it is highly recommended that a review of basic radio operations specific to the model of portable and mobile radios used by each department be conducted with all line firefighters.

Local Government cooperators who are likely to be called for initial attack on federal lands should reprogram their VHF radios immediately with the new frequencies.

For additional information, please contact either the Cal EMA Telecommunications Interoperability Programs Unit at (916) 845-8630, or the Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Division at (916) 845-8711.