



National Interagency Fire Center
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Area Command Team 4 Briefing Paper

Date: August 30, 2005

Action Item 1

Name: Fire Season 2005 Field Training

Issue/Topic: Provide training to fire line personnel prior to the end of the 2005 fire season

Indicators of Need for Action: Radio communications on incidents, initial attack and in aviation operations are currently being adversely impacted by narrowband / wideband conflicts. These conflicts are not always recognized by users and technicians.

Key Points:

- Wideband / narrowband conflicts impact communication and therefore safety
- Problems are often misdiagnosed
- Maintenance is often uneven and ineffective
- Training is predominately absent and not tracked

Proposed Action Description: Starting immediately, post the DVD / video, the safety advisory, safety alerts and radio aptitude test on the internet. Require firefighters and other radio users to review the information and take the test. Successful completion of the test (80%) will generate a certificate needed to “check-out” a radio on incident.

Provide the same package of information on a DVD to Incident Management Teams to be shared with firefighters in incidents. Issue a hard copy certificate or completion card to those receiving the training “off-line”.

Provide field training prior to the end of this fire season by sending two (2) person teams to on-going incidents. Working with the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and regional/state/area aviation managers, determine the priority for aviation bases to be visited by avionics technicians and radio technicians for assessment and training.

Improve the training during the fall and winter of 2005, and make it widely available and required as part of the annual refresher training.