



National Interagency Fire Center
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Area Command Team 4 Briefing Paper

Date: August 30, 2005

Action Item 6

Name: Annual Communications Refresher

Issue/Topic: Wildland firefighters and aviators are improperly programming radios. These mistakes are made more severe by the wideband/narrowband issues. Improper programming is causing communication concerns on several incidents.

Indicators of Need for Action: After reviewing numerous SAFECOMs and SAFENETs it is apparent that many wildland firefighters and aviators are unfamiliar with the various brands of radios that are used on incidents.

Key Point:

- Wildland firefighters and aviators are not receiving adequate training on radio programming and use.

Proposed Action Description: Include radio communication training as a part of the required annual firefighter refresher package for all agencies and states.

Develop web-based training similar to USDA AgLearn Security Training for radio communications. Ensure the program issues a certificate upon completion.

Include hands-on radio and avionics training at the following meetings:

- Regional Helicopter Managers Workshops
- Air Attack National Workshop
- Leadplane Pilots Meeting
- Helicopter Operations Specialist Meeting
- SEAT Meeting
- Inspector Pilot Meeting
- Air Tanker Association Meeting
- Dispatchers Workshops
- Other meetings/training with vendor pilots
- Engine, Hotshot, and Division Chief Meetings
- Involve and invite local cooperators in meetings