



National Interagency Fire Center

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Area Command Team 4 Briefing Paper

Date: August 30, 2005

Action Item 14

Name: Standard Contract Language

Issue/Topic: Develop standard radio specifications for contractors

Indicators of Need for Action: Several contractors are using radios that are not narrowband compatible. The problem is more likely to occur with vendors hired using Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs). Contract requirements are currently too broad by specifying that the vendor provide a radio but not including contract language is not specific as to capability.

Key Points:

- National contracts currently have the proper specifications for radio communications.
- Regional contracts and EERA vendors may arrive on incidents with radios that are wideband cannot be properly programmed. This is creating situations where the incident must provide radios to engine and crew contractors.
- Providing radios to contract firefighting resources on incidents reduces the number of radios available for other incident resources and may indicate that the contractor is out of compliance with contract requirements.

Proposed Action Description: Use the standard contract language from the National Contract that addresses radio communications in all regional contracts and in EERAs to properly specify radio requirements. Distribute this contract language through the incident business management community. The proper clause should be changed in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook as an attachment to the EERA (OF-294).

Ensure that contractors are aware of the new requirements prior to the beginning of the 2006 fire season. Have the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident Business Practices Working Team coordinate with the states and federal agencies to implement use of standardized radio specifications in contract language.