

USE OF COOPERATING AGENCY FREQUENCIES

8023

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If a cooperator's radio frequency is utilized on a regular basis, it is mandatory that written permission be obtained from the local government entity that holds the FCC license. Example: "Other's frequencies used on state radios", Written authorization is essential to protect the FCC license of the PSCO radio technicians that work on state owned radio equipment. As it is not possible to obtain a master communications agreement to cover all such situations, it is required that separate agreements must be made with each agency. Such agreements must be made between the local unit Emergency Command Center staff and the person within the agency or jurisdiction that has authority to grant access to these radio frequencies. It is recommended that such agreements be made using PSCO form **TD-400**, "Radio Frequency Usage Agreement". This form requires the following information be provided by the local jurisdiction relative to the frequencies being proposed:

- FCC licensed Call Sign
- Number of Authorized Portables
- Number of Authorized Mobiles
- Number of Authorized Fixed Stations
- Channel Designation
- Transmit frequency
- Transmit ERP
- Emission Designator
- Transmit CTCSS / CDCSS Tone
- Receive frequency
- Receive CTCSS / CDCSS tone
- maximum power limits for transmitters
- locations where such frequencies may be used by CAL FIRE
limitations on the use of the frequencies, i.e., prohibitions against aircraft use on our radios and to ensure compliance with other FCC rules and regulations.

Frequency sharing between CAL FIRE and its cooperators is a well-established practice that has benefited the people of California through improved communications during emergency incidents of all types and sizes. It is incumbent upon every CAL FIRE radio user to safeguard this privilege by only using another agency's frequency with permission (may be assumed when assigned by ECC), and by using proper radio courtesy and protocol. The same is expected of other agency personnel who use CAL FIRE frequencies.

United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) radio frequencies may be used in accordance with existing agreements. Fire protection and mutual aid agreements are on file in Sacramento, at region and area offices, and at unit headquarters. Approval / control of the various federal radio frequencies are as follows:

- **Forest nets:** individual national forest supervisor's office (forest dispatch office).
- **USFS Region nets:** ONCC or OSCC GACC dispatch offices.
- **National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) frequencies:** ONCC or OSCC dispatch offices.

CAL FIRE ECCs may go directly to their neighboring national forest(s) for permission to use a forest net frequency. Additional USFS frequencies are to be requested through region OCC to the appropriate federal GACC dispatch office. All requests will include the full numerical frequency designation, i.e.: 170.3800 MHz.

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)