

COMMUNICATIONS WITH FEDERAL COOPERATORS

8035

(No. 28 October 2014)

Routine and emergency communications between CAL FIRE and federal cooperators such as USFS, BLM, NPS and the National Weather Service are taking place throughout California on an essentially constant basis. The authority for such interagency communication and frequency-sharing resides primarily in the master cooperative agreements between agencies. More detailed local information is contained in the operating plans between CAL FIRE regions and the respective national forests, BLM districts, national parks and fire weather forecast offices. These operating plans are reviewed and updated annually. It is to the TCO's advantage to obtain copies of the master agreements and to be thoroughly familiar with the applicable local operating plans. The USDA management in Washington D.C. requires that there must be a separate frequency use agreement with each National Forest. Statewide Master agreements are no longer accepted. CALFIRE is in the process of updating all agreements for the Federal frequencies we are authorized to utilize from the National Forest.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH USDA FOREST SERVICE

8035.1

(No. 28 October 2014)

In accordance with the CAL FIRE / USFS cooperative fire protection agreement and operating agreements between regions and national forests, both agencies' radio frequencies may be installed in mobiles, HTs and aircraft radios. Authorized radio frequency uses include:

- initial and extended attack on wildfires
- reporting fires and other emergencies to the appropriate ECC or dispatch office
- major-incident communications, including use of assigned tactical, command, support and air-to-ground nets
- enroute communications between ground units on travel status, or between ground units and ECCs (CESRS- Travel Net)
- aircraft-to-aircraft communication / coordination (Air Tactics Nets)
- aircraft in-flight emergencies (Airguard)
- initial aircraft contact, diverts, releases and reassignments by ECCs and dispatch offices (Airguard)
- joint training exercises
- fire prevention and law enforcement coordination

Special situations not included in the foregoing list may occur, where use of a specific CAL FIRE or USFS frequency in a specific area is needed to accomplish some task, or simply to provide radio coverage in a location not covered by the other agency. In these cases, the appropriate ECC or dispatch office may authorize the use of frequencies they control. The next level of dispatch, USFS GACC and CAL FIRE OCC, should be advised.

COMMUNICATIONS ON FEDERAL FREQUENCIES (other) 8035.2

(No. 28 October 2014)

The use of the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) frequencies are only authorized when one or both of the following is in place:

- 1.) NIFC cache radio system has been deployed at an incident.
- 2.) Frequency coordinator has authorized the use of specific frequencies.

In both cases an ICS COM205 should be utilized at the incident and a copy forwarded to the COM205 email by the COML, (COM205@fire.ca.gov.)

- For additional information on frequency-sharing see [Section 8023](#)

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

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

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