

**National Interagency Incident Communications Division
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354**

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2009
To: Geographic Area Center Managers
From: Communications Duty Office Coordinator
Subject: Initial Attack Air to Ground Frequency Assignments for 2009 Fire Season

Air to air and air to ground radio frequency assignments used for initial attack are coordinated by the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD), Communications Duty Office Coordinator (CDO). Air to air frequency assignments are provided by the Federal Aviation Administration and the air to ground assignments are provided by the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture. It has become increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand for radio frequency spectrum and it is expected that future requirements cannot be met without aggressive frequency management and extensive sharing among all agencies.

Initial Attack FM Air to Ground Assignments

Air to ground frequencies provides communication between initial attack aircraft and ground crews operating within the initial attack zone. Agency mobiles and portables responding to initial attack within a zone require air to ground assignments to be authorized, or licensed, so that agencies may configure equipment prior to fire season, without requiring "on the fly" changes during the fire season. In the event that the assigned frequencies may not be sufficient to support extensive fire activity temporary assignments may be requested to supplement the initial attack zone from the communication duty officer.

Each agency is represented by a frequency manager and NIICD has worked with these managers to coordinate frequency resources for use in accordance with the radio frequency authorization (RFA) or a temporary use authority that permits operation on that frequency.

Initial Attack Zone Boundaries

When changes to initial attack zone boundaries are planned, NIICD will make a representative available to assist GACC managers with coordination of frequency requirements in order to facilitate a timely transition.

Sensitive But Unclassified

Under the authority of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture have designated specific frequencies nationwide for assignment and use by NIFC to support their all-risk-management missions. These radio frequency assignments are Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) release exempt and are to be protected as Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) data.

Eastern Great Basin Air to Ground Radio Frequencies 2009

