

**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

May 9, 2001

In Reply refer to:  
9210.1 & 9216 (FC-260) P

EMS Transmission 05/10/01  
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2001-016  
Expires: 09/30/02

To: SDs, CDs, ADs, WO-500  
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation  
Subject: Distribution of Fire Funds for Radio Related Costs in FY2001

**Program Area:** Fire, IRM

**Purpose/Background:** The Bureau must comply with the congressional mandate and Department of the Interior directives to transition to narrowband and Electronics Industry Association/Telecommunications Industry Association (EIA/TIA) 102 (P-25) radio capabilities by January 1, 2005. Funds have been identified as part of the National Fire Plan to assist the states with the conversion to the new digital radio technology. Funds have also been provided through the fire facilities program to assist with the replacement of radio towers.

**Policy/Action:** For FY2001, the fire program has identified these funds by state, in accordance with the established process for distribution of overall fire program dollars. This process is known as the Most Efficient Level (MEL). The MEL and FY2001 funding levels breakdown for each state is listed in Table #1. Table #2 reflects the total funding the fire program has made available for the radio program in FY2001. The requested levels for FY2002 and FY2003 are also included to assist with future planning, with the understanding that these are requested levels only.

When purchasing radios with these funds, states will ensure the radio equipment is P-25 compliant and meets fire requirements. Infrastructure funding is to be used for base stations/repeaters, duplexers, grounding, antennas, consoles, etc. Tower funds may be used for tower purchases/upgrades, installation contracts, and joint tower ventures when they support the fire program and it is anticipated to be a long-term arrangement. Alaska previously received tower construction funds for FY2001. Thus, Table #1 does not allocate further funding in this FY.

To ensure appropriate reporting requirements for fire funds identified in Table #1 are met, the states will

report monthly state fire fund expenditures to the National Telecommunications Manager. The Telecommunications Manager will consolidate and forward the reports to the Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A). These reports will specifically identify fire funds obligated/expended during that time period and results achieved (i.e. P-25 radio equipment purchased, towers upgraded/replaced, or radio facilities improved).

The funding for fire mobile and handheld radios is the initial installment of a 10-year cyclic replacement plan. OF&A will require states to report purchase date, radio model, serial number; and for mobiles, the vehicle type (engine, water tender, support vehicle). (See attached example report formats).

Radio/tower purchases will be coordinated through the National Telecommunications Manager to maximize bulk purchase savings opportunities. The fire program will provide the Bureau Telecommunications Manager with a charge code for the purchase of approved fire funded equipment. Radio/tower equipment purchase requests that exceed each state's identified fire funding allocation will require an associated state fund code.

#### **Budget Impact:**

**TABLE #1**

<b>State</b>	<b>MEL</b>	<b>Towers</b>	<b>Infrastructure (repeaters, consoles, grounding, antenna, etc.)</b>	<b>Mobile Radios</b>	<b>Handheld Radios</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	17.31%	\$0	\$519,000	\$51,000	\$258,000
<b>Arizona</b>	4.6543%	\$56,000	\$140,000	\$14,000	\$69,000
<b>California</b>	11.0423%	\$134,000	\$331,000	\$32,000	\$165,000
<b>Colorado</b>	6.0430%	\$73,000	\$181,000	\$18,000	\$90,000
<b>Eastern States</b>	0.0000%	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$9,000
<b>Idaho</b>	12.3059%	\$149,000	\$369,000	\$36,000	\$183,000
<b>Montana</b>	6.7837%	\$82,000	\$204,000	\$20,000	\$101,000
<b>Nevada</b>	14.4213%	\$174,000	\$433,000	\$42,000	\$215,000
<b>New Mexico</b>	3.3757%	\$41,000	\$101,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
<b>NIFC Cache</b>	0.0000%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
<b>Oregon</b>	12.0321%	\$146,000	\$361,000	\$35,000	\$179,000
<b>Utah</b>	8.2111%	\$99,000	\$246,000	\$24,000	\$122,000

<b>Wyoming</b>	3.8220%	\$46,000	\$115,000	\$11,000	\$57,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	99.9999%	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$300,000	\$2,498,000

**Table #2**

	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>
Towers	\$1,000,000	requested \$3,000,000	requested \$2,000,000
NIRSC Cache (3,000-3,500 handhelds)	\$1,000,000	requested \$1,000,000	requested \$1,000,000
Mobiles (10-year replacement plan)	\$300,000	requested \$300,000	requested \$300,000
Handheld (10-year replacement plan)	\$1,500,000	requested \$1,000,000	requested \$1,000,000
Radio Infrastructure (mountaintops, power, grounding, consoles, etc.)	\$3,000,000	requested \$3,700,000	requested \$10,300,000
Total	\$6,800,000	requested \$9,000,000	requested \$14,600,000

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None

**Coordination:** Fire Program, Radio Program

**Contact:**

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Ron Strong (303-236-6635) or John Gebhard (208-387-5164).

Signed by:  
Lynn Findley  
Acting Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

2 Attachments

1 - Mobile Handheld Cyclic Replacement

## 2 - Monthly Report Form

### Distribution

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