

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

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

May 21, 1999

In Reply refer to:
9209 (FA-260) P

EMS Transmission 5/24/99
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 99-015
Expires: 9/30/2000

To: SDs and NARSC Director
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation
Subject: Airtanker Base Frequency Change

For several years, we have been authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to use 135.975 MHz as the National Airtanker Base Frequency. When this frequency was used last summer in the Southern Region, we ran into conflicts because the frequency was also being used by the FAA's regional office for in-route air frequency.

This letter is to inform you of an agreement between FAA and National Incident Communications/IR Operations Unit that was reached to provide another common frequency for the airtanker bases nationwide. This frequency assignment is good for the next 2 years and will be renewed every 2 years. **The frequency of 123.975 MHz is approved and will be the National Airtanker Base frequency.**

This frequency is licensed for 10 watts, up to 15,000 feet, and a 50-mile radius of our airtanker bases. The use of this frequency is authorized for air-to-ground, ground-to-air, and to marshal and load airtankers.

Proper radio procedure must be used with this frequency. The FAA will monitor and remove the frequency if it is not used correctly.

Please disseminate this memo to all your field units. Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to John Gebhard at 208-387-5164 or Stephen Jenkins at 208-387-5485.

Signed by:
Ron Dunton
Acting Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authorized by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

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