



Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project (IDIP)

Radio Network Deficiencies

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Problem

Current lifecycle management for radio and network hardware does not follow a cohesive interagency strategy. This leads to system failures and radio down time. Radio system repair or replacement takes time and jeopardizes personnel safety which increases agency liability.

Key Issues

The current status of the radio infrastructure often contradicts the life cycle management and support policy of various agencies and Federal policies:

Land Management Agency Policy

Agency	Policy	Current Situation
Bureau of Land Management	Life Cycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 years for portables and mobile radios; • 10 Years for radio repeaters (back bone) • 4 years for computers. 	Unknown – Information not made available to IDIP.
Forest Service	Lifecycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Years for portables radios • 15 years for mobile radios • 15 years for radio repeaters (back bone) • 10 years for radio consoles • 5 years for computers. 	A system with highest reported number of problems provides priority for replacement. Often this only happens under a break/fix scenario.
States	State Policies Vary – Each State has own lifecycle structure.	Unknown

Federal Policy

Policy	Current Situation
Telecommunications Information Administration policy dated 1995 requires all federal agencies to transition by Jan 2005 to narrowband and to implement digital P25 standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current federal land management agency radio systems (FS, DOI) are functioning in an analog mode. • States are adopting P-25 technologies through Federal grant dollars
The federal repeater network design standard is 85% coverage within jurisdictional areas	This standard is not always met.

Recommended Steps to Resolution

- WFIT initiate a plan to invest in P-25 technology to meet the 2005 baseline.
- Turn DOI and USFS wildland fire agency networks, management and procurement over to one entity to manage.

Benefits to Implementation

- Radio network costs will decrease when duplicate infrastructure investment is eliminated.
- Agency incident response will be more effective as reliable communications become available.
- Investment in advanced technologies will phase out legacy equipment and associated inherent limitations.
- Barriers to interagency interoperability would be resolved.

Additional Information

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