



Radio Communications Section  
1-800-309-7081  
24/7 CDO  
Communications Duty Office

Arizona Department of Forestry  
and Fire Management

# Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Radio Communications Notice

**Date:**

16, March 2018



**Notice Number:**

18-001

**Subject:**

***Important Changes for 2018***

**IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2018-**

1. **Frequency Change for ADFM Tac 5: Effective March, 1, 2018.** The ADFFM has changed the frequency for ADFM Tac 5. The new frequency is: 159.3450 TX and RX and pl tone is 192.8 Tx and RX. Please make necessary changes and always confirm this new information with fire line personnel prior to engaging in firefighting operations and ensure that all responders are referencing the "new TAC 5 for 2018" to ensure safe and effective communications.
2. **New Group Added to Channel Plan- ADFFM Crew Logistical Group-** New for 2018, Group 4 in the ADFFM Radio Channel and Programming Plan will consist of a specific frequency with a different PL tone or channel guard assigned to each ADFFM hand crew to be used as an internal agency "Crew Net". This will be called the Crew Logistical Group. The Group is to be used by all ADFFM Type I & II fire suppression hand crews for logistical communications within a crew. Each ADFFM hand crew is pre-assigned a specific pl tone that is unique to the crew. Using the Squelch knob turned full counterclockwise till click on the DPH portable radios will ensure the appropriate use of the assigned pl tone. The use of this ADFFM crew specific net will **only be used for logistical purposes only and is not intended to be used for fire line tactical purposes similar to the Fed Crew Net.**
3. **Enhanced use of CTCSS or PL tones throughout the ADFFM statewide radio communications plan for 2018.** The ADFFM uses CTCSS or PL tone in our statewide Radio Communications Plan as a way to create multiple uses on the same frequency without causing interference to other users on the identified frequencies. It is imperative that users of the ADFFM Radio System implement these changes to avoid potential Communications issues that may arise as a result of the use of incorrect PL tones. This is a firefighter safety awareness notice. **The condition exists for the potential loss of firefighter effectiveness and the ability to communicate safely if these PL tones are not utilized as identified in the plan.**
4. As of February 15, 2018, there were frequency changes for the Tonto National Forest scheduled for implementation in first quarter of 2018. Please check local area resources to ensure that the TNF was able to migrate to their new frequencies for 2018 or the older ones in case their radio frequency migration plan was pre-empted or not implemented as scheduled. The newer frequency is built into Group 16 and the old freq if the Tonto NF determines to not implement the changes is in Group 24. See the 2018 radio communications plan for further details.
5. There are two standardized Federal common channels mostly used for communications between units that are traveling. **FED Common channel in this plan is 168.3500 TX & RX and its channel name is FEDTRVL.** The alternate FED Common is 163.100 TX & RX and is termed FEDCOMN1- **These federal common frequencies are not for tactical use.**
6. To check to see if you have the latest radio program- Verify your radio program file version: Instructions: Radio in the "ON" position, select group 1. After verifying Group 1 selection, select and push the # button, release, and then hit the # button again and hold the # button to view the file version. Information will only appear while pressing and holding the # button. The file version with the date will appear in the lcd window. (Ex: 1.022618) The latest version of the radio programming file is Version 1.022618 which should appear on your radio if it has the latest program installed as of March 16, 2018. Any additional versions will be transmitted via this Radio Communications Notice method. Contact the Communications Section if you do not have this latest version. [Communications@dffm.az.gov](mailto:Communications@dffm.az.gov) or [dbrown@dffm.az.gov](mailto:dbrown@dffm.az.gov)

***All responders must ensure that all emergency response and support radios contain the 2018 change in their radio equipment prior to engaging in ADFFM firefighting actions.***

*Questions: Please feel free to call the ADFFM Communications Manager- 602-319-1232 or the Arizona Dispatch Center -1-800-309-7081*

*It is the responsibility of each radio user to know and understand the operation of their two-way radio communicatins equipment including the Communications Plan as YOUR Health and Safety AND that of OTHERS may depend on it"*