

## North Fire Zone / South Fire Zone

### Communication Plan

The North Idaho Fire Chief's has put together a committee to develop a communications plan in which all responding agencies have a common platform to communicate during the initial actions of a large scale incident.

Participating Agencies: Bonner County Dispatch, Boundary County EMS, IDL, Kootenai County Dispatch, North Idaho Fire Agencies, and USFS.

This Communications plan should be considered as an **All Risk** communications plan.

The Plan: North Fire Zone

Boundary County  
Bonner County  
Kootenai County (north of I 90)

South Fire Zone

Benewah  
Kootenai County (south of I 90)  
Shoshone

Procedures:

- Incident Commanders should determine which agency will be the central ordering point (COP) for resources.
  1. Incident Commanders will determine if the incident will exceed the capabilities of the local dispatch center early on.
- Incident Commanders will have the responsibility upon notification of a major incident involving multi-jurisdictional response to move responders to the appropriate communications plan.
  1. Incident Commanders will need work with their local dispatch center in establishing appropriate zone for communications.
- Dispatch Centers upon notification will need to advise their agencies to move communications to the appropriate Fire Zone.
- On large scale incidents, Commanders should establish a command frequency as a top priority. This is easily accomplished with the COP via radio.
  1. For LARGE WILDLAND INCIDENTS, Coeur d'Alene Dispatch should be the designated COP.
  2. For all other large scale multi-jurisdictional incidents, the Incident Commander will need to determine the COP and tactical frequencies.

For large wildland incidents in the initial stages of fire attack the incident commander will need to establish a:

- Command Channel
- 2 Tactical Channels
- 1 Air to Ground Channel

\*Kootenai County Agencies operate 700MHZ radio frequencies. Most Northern Idaho Counties, State and Federal resources are operating on VHF frequencies. Incident Commanders will need to address this early on when incidents occur in or near Kootenai County.

\*Each participating agency is responsible to train command staff and company commanders on the use of this communications plan as part of the annual RT 130 refresher.