



National Interagency Incident Communications Division



February 28, 2020

To: Radio Users

From: Chief, National Interagency Incident Communications Division

Subject: Approved Radios

The following is a consolidated list of Fire Approved Radios for use by all federal employees and all personnel under contract with the federal government working on wildland fires, as well as Cooperator Aviation Radios and Radios Approved for Forest Health Protection. These are the only approved radios for interagency fire and Forest Health Protection use.

1. Fire Approved Radios

The following radios are currently approved for interagency fire use. No new “analog only” radios will be added to this list.

VHF-AM

VHF-AM radios do not receive fire approval. Any FCC approved VHF-AM radio is acceptable. All VHF-AM radios used in aircraft shall meet the appropriate Technical Standard Order (TSO) category.

VHF-FM

Analog Portable Radios^{1,2}

B/K GPH

Analog Mobile Radios^{1,2}

B/K GMH

P25 Digital Portable Radios

B/K	GPH upgraded to P25 digital ³	
Datron	Guardian G25PRV100	
Midland	STP105B	
Motorola	XTS 2500 ⁴	
Motorola	XTS 5000 ⁴	
Motorola	VX-P949	In production
Relm	DPH5102X	
Relm	DPHX5102X	
Relm	KNG-P150	In production
Relm	KNG-P150S	
Relm	KNG2-P150	In production
Thales	25 PRC-6894	

P25 Digital Mobile Radios

B/K	GMH upgraded to P25 digital ³	
Datron	G25RMV100	
Datron	G25RMV110	
Datron	G25ASU001	
Kenwood	TK-5710	In production
Kenwood	TK-5720	In production
Midland	STM-1050B	
Midland	STM-1055B	
Midland	STM-1115B	
Relm	DMH5992	
Relm	DMH5992X HP	
Relm	KNG-M150	In production

P25 Digital Aeronautical Radios

Cobham (formerly Northern Airborne Technology)	NPX136D-000 ⁵	
Cobham (formerly Northern Airborne Technology)	NPX136D-070	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136NV	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136A	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136A/NV	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136B ⁶	In production
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-136B/NV ⁶	In production

2. Cooperator Aviation Radios Accepted for Fire Use

Aviation is a dynamic environment and aviation radios are generally complex. Some basic guidelines are provided below so all parties can effectively communicate. These are:

- Contain at least one conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module/transceiver operating from 136 to 174 MHz with front panel programmability (FPP).
- Any of the following options are acceptable to meet the Air Guard requirement (TX & RX 168.6250 MHz, TX CTCSS 110.9 Hz):
 - A second conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module/transceiver operating from 136 to 174 MHz with FPP.
 - A non-FPP conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module/transceiver operating from 136 to 174 MHz with a preset channel dedicated to Air Guard.
 - A P25 digital trunked VHF-FM RF module/transceiver operating from 136 to 174 MHz with a non-trunked preset channel dedicated to Air Guard.

These multiband aeronautical radios are acceptable for Cooperator Aviation Radios Accepted for Fire Use.

Cobham	RT-5000/C-5000 ⁸	
Cobham	RT-7000 ⁹	In production
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-6000 Series ^{10, 11}	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-7000 Series	
Technisonic Industries	TDFM-7300 Series	

3. Radios Approved for Forest Health Protection

The following analog aviation radios are currently approved for US Forest Service (USFS) Forest Health Protection (FHP). FHP may also utilize approved P25 Digital Radios listed under Section 1: Fire Approved Radios. The below analog radios are not allowed to be used in any aspect of interagency fire (reconnaissance or air tactical).

Analog VHF-FM Aeronautical Radios¹²

AEM (formerly Northern Airborne Technology)	NTX138-050
Technisonic Industries	TFM-138 (serial number 1540 & up)
Technisonic Industries	TFM-138B/C/D
Technisonic Industries	TFM-500

Analog-only VHF-FM radios are not approved for DOI use unless a waiver is granted to the operating Bureau by the Telecommunications Systems Division (TSD) of the DOI Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

Questions concerning radios and requirements on this list can be directed to: Bill Forsyth (208-387-5720) bill.forsyth@usda.gov (portable and mobile radios) or Frank Smith (208-387-5648) frank.smith@usda.gov (aeronautical radios). Radio vendors may contact Bill Forsyth to submit products for evaluation for inclusion on the Fire Approved Radios list.

/s/

KIM McCUTCHAN
Chief, NIICD/NIFC

- ¹ Purchases of new analog radios are not recommended. At some point in the future, fire will require that only P25 digital radios be used.
- ² Several contracts specify that only P25 digital radios are acceptable. These “analog only” radios are not acceptable for contracts requiring P25 digital radios.
- ³ When a P25 digital radio is required and a BK GPH/GMH radio with P25 digital upgrade is used, the user must provide proof that the radio has been upgraded prior to it being accepted.
- ⁴ The Motorola XTS2500 and XTS5000 P25 digital portable radios are fire compliant when operating radio software R.15.00.05 or newer.
- ⁵ The Cobham (formerly Northern Airborne Technology) NPX136D-000 is only acceptable for fire when used as a substitute for the AUX-FM provisions and an Air Guard receiver for this radio is not contractually required. The NPX136D-000 is not acceptable as a stand-alone radio.
- ⁶ The Technisonic Industries TDFM-136B and TDFM-136B/NV are fire compliant when operating Radio Info: Main Code 1.1.4 or newer and has Modification #2 installed.
- ⁷ The Technisonic Industries TDFM-9000/9100/9200/9300 radios are highly dependent upon settings in Motorola’s CPS software. CPS software is very complex and settings should only be changed by a person trained in CPS use. TDFM-9000/9100/9200/9300 radios are fire compliant under the following conditions:
- Contain at least one conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module operating from 136 to 174 MHz with front panel programmability (FPP) enabled.
 - Any of the following options are acceptable to meet the Air Guard requirement (transmit & receive 168.6250 MHz with a transmit CTCSS tone of 110.9 Hz):
 - A second conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module operating from 136 to 174 MHz with FPP enabled.
 - A non-FPP conventional P25 digital VHF-FM RF module operating from 136 to 174 MHz with a preset channel dedicated to Air Guard.
 - A P25 digital trunked VHF-FM RF module operating from 136 to 174 MHz with a non-trunked preset channel dedicated to Air Guard.
 - Soft Keys (in order of use) (CPS = Menu Items):
 - Zone, FPP, Scan, Mute, Info.
 - The Zone containing FPP should be identified as “Zone 1 FPP” or similar. When only the Zone having FPP exists then the soft key “Zone” is not required.
 - Function Keys (CPS = Buttons - General):
 - F1 – Set to Monitor.
 - Keypad Keys (CPS = Switches):
 - M UP/M DN – Set as channel select.
 - TSW – Set as Blank (A)/PL Disable (B)/Blank (C).

- Power Knob:
 - Selections shall include Volume Adjust and Channel Changes.
- All features on the FPP screen shall be editable and have the ability to be saved to the selected channel.
- Other functions enabled:
 - DTMF operation
 - 90 second time-out-timer

⁸ Recommended RT-5000 transceiver versions are only those with MODs 34, 36, or 38 installed using a C-5000 controller with Software Identification 12 (SWID 12) loaded.

⁹ The Cobham RT-7000 radio, when using Motorola APX modules, is highly dependent upon settings in Motorola's CPS software. CPS software is very complex and settings should only be changed by a person trained in CPS use. At a minimum, the following FPP functions should be enabled: receive and transmit frequency edit, channel mode edit, receive and transmit CTCSS tone edit, receive and transmit network access code and talkgroup edit.

¹⁰ A Technisonic AMS-6000 Audio Panel is highly recommended when using the TDFM-6000 series radio.

¹¹ The Technisonic TDFM-6148 radio does not meet the basic guidelines for single radio installations.

¹² This category of approved radios will be removed once the USFS mandates that only P25 digital radios be used. Mandatory USFS P25 usage is anticipated in 2022.