

File Code:

Date: 8 Mar 24

To: All Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Employees

From: Assistant Director, Land Mobile Radio (LMR)

RE: Subscriber Unit (Portable/Mobile Radio) Firmware and Software

We recognize the need for periodic radio subscriber unit hardware, firmware, or software updates. Firmware and software patches, in particular, mitigate emergent security issues and/or enhance functionality. Our goal is standardization of software and firmware used, to ensure version control and reduce the likelihood of erratic system performance.

To improve interoperability, flatten training curves, and improve safety, updates/upgrades are performed on a schedule approved by the LMR Operations Branch Chief or designee. Toward that end, LMR personnel will not download or install new firmware or software on any Forest Service radio outside this system-wide process. Instead, they will distribute and install standard version(s) of firmware and software as follows:

- A designated group of LMR employees tested and evaluated the latest version(s) of firmware and software prior to deployment.
- The LMR Operations Branch Chief determined minor issues found during testing are not significant enough to delay this upgrade. The versions that shall be used are, therefore, listed in Attachment A of this letter.
- If a new version of software or firmware is not identified for certain radios, they remain on the previous year's version.
- If a new version of software or firmware is designated, affected radios will be updated during annual preventative maintenance (PM) or programming updates. This is normally accomplished on or after 1 October of the FY and not during the months of May through September, unless a critical vulnerability is discovered and the LMR LT approves an out-of-cycle update.

This memo and its attachment supersede the one I sent on 11 Dec 23. My POC for questions about this is Raymond Adams, LMR R1 Radio Manager, available at raymond.e.adams@usda.gov or at (406) 241-4982.

Stephen R. Day
Assistant Director, Land Mobile Radio (LMR)



Attachment A

For FY24, the approved versions of subscriber unit firmware and software are:

Model	Firmware	Software
*BKR-9000	5.10.18	RES 5.8.31
BKR-5000	5.8.69	RES 5.8.31
KNG2-P150	5.7.7	RES 5.8.31
KNGP-150CMD	5.7.7	RES 5.8.31
KNG-P150	5.7.7	RES 5.8.31
KNG-P150S	1.6.1	KNG Editor 1.2.0
KNG-M150	5.7.7	RES 5.8.31
KNG-M150R	5.7.7	RES 5.8.31
DPH5102X	Group99 Patch	DPH Editor 3.5.5
DPHX5102X	Update #103	DPH Editor 3.5.5
DMH5992X	Update #102	DMH Editor 1.1.3
**Kenwood NX-5700	5.12.00	KPG-D1SL 5.10
***Kenwood NX-5200	5.12.00	KPG-D1SL 5.10

*BKR-9000 multiband radios are being field-tested in several locations. These radios are not currently certified by NIFC for wildland fire use. They are NOT approved for use outside the field-testing environment until NIFC certifies them for wildland fire use.

**Kenwood NX-5700 mobile radios support Operator Selected NACs and associated picklists via hand programming from the radios' front panel. NIFC approved the radios for Fire resource use with this functionality, and Kenwood-provided training includes how to program the NACs in this way. These radios may, therefore, be used by Fire resources.

***Kenwood NX-5200 portable radios are not NIFC-approved for Fire resource use. These radios may not, therefore, be used by Fire resources.

All Forests should upgrade to the firmware/software versions listed as soon as possible, taking care to clone to and from like models (e.g., P150 to P150 and P150S to P150S) only.

Stephen R. Day
Assistant Director, Land Mobile Radio (LMR)