



## Perseverance Rewarded: Radio Frequency Inter-operability Between Agencies Arrives After Years of Planning

**The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

Government agencies in Kentucky have been determined to develop radio inter-operability in order to improve agency response capabilities to wildland fires. At an annual cookout with fire staff from the U.S. Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry the need to communicate more efficiently across radio frequencies was identified as a priority. With years in the making, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Frequency Manager of the U.S. Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry in 2014.

This includes an updated frequency plan, which was a necessary step to overcoming wrong codes being used that did not appear in others' frequencies. The agencies received a permission letter

from the area's County Judge Executives to permit the Daniel Boone National Forest to use county frequencies on wildland fire responses. In another success, the agencies also obtained a permission letter from the area's County Judge Executives to permit local fire departments to use Forest Service frequencies. Agency personnel can now arrive at a fire incident with the ability to communicate with one another's tactical forces while simultaneously scanning their own agency's dispatch.

This multi-year effort succeeded largely in part due to the committed partnerships between the U.S. Forest Service, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and local fire departments.

**Partners:** US Forest Service, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and local fire departments



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