



SPIRIT LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

John DeBernardi, Fire Chief
Wayne Nowacki, Fire Marshal

Tom Russell Commissioner 1
Mark Miller, Chairman, Commissioner 2
Chuck Hodge, Commissioner 3

Spirit Lake Fire Protection District received a grant from FEMA for the amount of \$111,637 in 2011 for the purchase of Digital 700 mhz radios. This grant was a matching type grant of 95/5. This grant was 95% federal funds (\$111,637) and 5% Spirit Lake Fire Protection District (\$5875). The fire district was able to update all vehicle, station and personnel radios to the 700 mhz digital radios.

It was necessary for SLFPD to upgrade to the digital radio system as Kootenai County (Emergency Communications Provider) was converting an analog communications system to a full digital system that is being integrated into a statewide communications system. Because the cost of this conversion was out of the financial ability of the District to provide, a grant was applied for the purpose of purchasing the digital radio equipment. The grant was applied for in March of 2010 and was awarded on March 25, 2011. The equipment was purchased in the summer of 2011 and placed into service. The radio system is working and fully compatible with the Kootenai County and Idaho State radio communications system.

Without this FEMA Grant, SLFPD would have taken several years to become fully compatible with Kootenai County and the State of Idaho communication systems. The installation of this equipment is a major step forward in the interoperability of communications in Kootenai County.

Thank you FEMA for supporting the citizens of the Spirit Lake Fire Protection District.

Fire Chief John DeBernardi
Fire Marshal Wayne Nowacki, grant writer