

# *The Source Information Radio News* – August 2016, Published by Information Station Specialists (theRADIOsource.com)

## **Don't Drive East!**

### **Information Radio Station Assists Community during Blue Cut Fire**

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA: August 16th started out a relatively normal Tuesday in the California high desert until the first fire call came in at 10:37 AM. Within an hour the Blue Cut fire, whipped by ferocious winds, was ravaging 1000 acres of drought-parched land in the Cajon Pass and threatening communities along the Interstate 15 corridor northeast of San Bernardino. Incident commander Mike Wakoski explained that the Pass acts as a wind tunnel, accelerating wind speeds by up to 30 miles per hour.

At 3:22 that afternoon the San Bernardino County sheriff contacted the Community of Wrightwood, California, to order residents to evacuate immediately. The request was made that the community's **Emergency Advisory Radio Station** (<http://www.theRADIOsource.com/products/alert-am.htm>) on AM 1610 be utilized to direct residents to evacuate to the west, because routes to the east were likely ablaze.

Fewer than 48 hours later, the blaze had grown to engulf 31,000 acres, severed an interstate highway and forced the evacuation of more than 80,000 area residents.

States Wrightwood's fire safe council director John Aziz: "Our community evacuation went smoothly; and no structures were burned. Other areas were not so fortunate."

More than 100 homes elsewhere in the fire's path and did not survive.

The Blue Cut Fire ranks as the 20th most destructive wildfire in state history, according to Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

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## **Virginia DOT Upgrades HARs Higher Quality Audio and Range for Motorists**

RICHMOND, VA: Virginia Department of Transportation has become the first DOT to take advantage of new FCC rules that allow the addition of audio processors to its Highway Advisory Radio (HAR/TIS) Stations. The upgrades were implemented as part of an improvement program on a set of eight synchronized stations along the I-64 Corridor and in the Hampton Roads (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Newport News) areas.

In March of 2015, the FCC approved a bandwidth increase for the service and, in February of this year, approved the **HQ5.1 Audio Processor** (<http://www.theRADIOsource.com/products/tr6000-hq5.1-processor.htm>) specifically for insertion in the Highway Advisory Radio audio chain. The State of Michigan took advantage of the same FCC rule change, and made a similar upgrade using a related technology at the pair of stations that flank the Mackinac Bridge in February. (**See the article at** <http://www.theRADIOsource.com/articles/news-2016-mar.htm> .)

Audio processors enhance the intelligibility of the HAR signals by increasing the bandwidth 67% and thereby adding brightness and consonance to the broadcast. They additionally increase the average modulation of the signals, which results in a louder band presence and increased effective range.

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# Grainger Adds Emergency/Health Info Radio Station to Online Catalog

LAKE FOREST, IL: For the first time, a national supply company - Grainger - is offering an Emergency Information Radio Station in its online product catalog. Beyond industrial supplies, Grainger, this summer, began offering Information Station Specialists' new "IRiS™ Emergency Information Radio Station" (and related accessories) in its line of emergency communication products.

This product, dubbed IRiS (short for Incident Radio Information Station), is the first portable radio station with the option to be controlled via cell modem and is available solely through Grainger. It also sports the most compact case size of any portable station on the market. Government agencies with a Grainger contract might be able to acquire the product without going through a bidding process, for simplified procurement.

Grainger, founded in 1927, currently offers more than a million products and repair parts internationally from its headquarters in Chicago. Now, the Company's slogan "Order Anything/Manage Everything" applies to an Emergency Information Radio Station as well as pump motors, rubber gloves and flashlight batteries.

Here's how to find this special new product: Go to **Grainger.com**. In the search field, type "IRiS Radio."

Drill down on the photo presented for details and to place an order.

Accessories and setup instructions are listed below the technical description on the drill-down page. They include a FCC license, signal measurement radio receiver for testing, portable sign to notify citizens, audio recording management software and cell modem for remote control.

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