

A Special Message to our Firehouse Forum Visitors

A portion of our July eNewsletter was posted by an unknown party, without permission; as a thread entitled *Communicators Vendor trying to stick it to the FD's*. I think it would be correct to say that the one who posted this thread was no friend of Falcon Direct, or the undersigned personally. However, he, she, or it is entitled to an opinion and the right to express that opinion.

With that being said, it should be pointed out that no innocent persons are ever harmed (as a general rule) by calling attention to the fact that illegal acts are being committed (either on purpose, by ignorance, or by misdirection by someone else). With only two noteworthy exceptions am I aware of any fire department entity that has knowingly attempted, or attempted to proceed in applying for or spending grant funds inappropriately. The real problem is a lack of consistent policy at the federal and state levels. The enforcement of the written policies have not been executed, primarily I believe, as the result of lack of clarity. In some cases, funds have been approved on the basis of assumptions by both the applicant and the reviewers coupled with the lack of adequate information to correctly judge compliance issues relative to the grant application.

In matters of FCC licensing, the rules are much better defined. Still, if the applicant, or the one assisting the applicant provides incorrect information on the application, the result can be an approval made on the basis of the information submitted rather than correctly describing the real operating mode of the radio system.

Unfortunately, the real culprit is often a person or organization that is trusted by the fire department grant applicant who has misled, either purposefully or through lack of knowledge, the applicant into submitting information that is false, misleading or both. In general, I have no issue with fire departments regardless of what they may have purchased or from whom, UNLESS that purchase results in the waste of US taxpayer money, or illegal operations that cause harm to other legally licensed public safety users.

The bottom line is that if a grant applicant says, or implies that are going to purchase and use communications equipment that meets federal and state guidelines and then purchases and operates something different, there is a problem. No attempt is being made to establish the guilt or innocence of any party. That is not my responsibility. That task will be ultimately be administered by the parties who have the responsibility for such things against those who are responsible for such things.

One commenter on the Firehouse thread said *Come on. This is just more Falcon Direct marketing. You guys should be ashamed* and further indicated that he had reported the posting as spam to the webteam. The fact is that we are NOT ashamed for taking a stand for what is right. More importantly, we did not post the thread. If this individual has an issue with the posting of threads, it should be with the one who posted an excerpt from our eNewsletter (WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION), not with Falcon Direct or the undersigned.

Another frequent Forum commenter with nearly 5400 postings of his opinions offers his words of wisdom by sharing that he has never heard of the DHS Inspector General. He also concluded that I had violated the confidentiality provisions of criminal investigations. Let's just say for the moment that you have to first understand the function of an Inspector General before determining what they do, to whom, and under what conditions. The most troubling of the comments this far is this one. *Sounds like someone did not get to sell equipment to a department to me*. This is absolutely priceless. This individual needs to read our Blog posting of July 3. You can scroll down to the next Blog down to read it if you are on our Blog page now, or click [here](#) if you are not.

Burch Falkner ~ At your Service!