

# Frequency Counts

By Margaret Pittelkow



**Clear and reliable communications are important in our industry!**

Every tower knows how important clear and reliable communications are between their vehicles and their dispatchers, but many in our industry may not be aware that continued access to the radio spectrum the towing industry needs is not guaranteed.

That's why AAA has been involved in coordinating and safeguarding the emergency road service radio spectrum for many years. AAA began filling this important role because it was among the first organizations in the industry to use radio dispatching for tow vehicles.

The towing and recovery industry falls within the Industrial/Business (IB) Pool frequency applicants. All IB Pool frequencies are in a shared spec-

trum, with increased crowding creating new challenges. It is becoming necessary to share channels because there are no unused channels and the FCC has made it clear they want everybody to obtain service. Two or more businesses or individuals may have to share a channel within a relatively small geographic area. Radio station interference engineering analysis is necessary to do the best job possible and to comply with FCC requirements.

The FCC conducted a spectrum audit during 2001 and 2002 in order to determine which call signs are active. If you depend on continued use of your Industrial/Business call sign for frequencies below 470 MHz it is important to be sure your call sign remains listed as active. The FCC

maintains a web site: [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) or they can be reached by calling (202) 418-0680.

AAA continues to guard the unobstructed use of those who depend on automotive emergency road service frequencies. It is difficult at times due to spectrum crowding and unlicensed users, but the engineering tools help. The challenges ahead will require patience and cooperation and operators should consider other communication solutions that provide private channels too. 🚚

*Margaret Pittelkow is the Managing Director of ERS Network for AAA.*