



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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December 30, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (P)
CA-943

EMS TRANSMISSION: 12/30/02
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2003-014
Expires 9/30/04

To: CDD District Manager/California Field Managers
Attention: All California Fire Management Program Personnel

From: State Director

Subject: Fire Program Collar Insignia Policy

This IM authorizes the wearing of collar insignia for BLM California fire program personnel as part of their official BLM uniform. The decision to implement this policy is based on an assessment of the environment in which fire personnel operate in California, and a determination that the benefits of doing so warrant this action.

The Bureau's fire management jurisdiction extends throughout the entire State with mission responsibilities in all of California's wild, rural, and in some cases, urbanized regions. We participate in statewide cooperative agreements for fire suppression, which authorize and promote close cooperation with local fire management agencies. These signed agreements mandate operating jointly with agencies that are very large and have an established command structure characterized by visible rank insignia. This is especially true in southern California and other areas where there is a major influx of population.

The BLM Fire Program continues to play a critical role in California fire management and must adjust to the needs dictated by the changing demographics of our other agency cooperators. BLM fire management officers are working more closely than ever before with other agencies. As urban areas continue to expand at a rapid rate, the need for establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions in order to better serve our mutual constituents is likewise greater than it has been in the past.

This policy goes into effect with the new 2003 Fire Season effective May 1, 2003, and applies to all indicated in the policy statement attached. Please ensure that it is implemented uniformly throughout the State. If you have questions concerning this policy or the appropriate insignia, please contact Ed Wehking, State Fire Management Officer, at 916-978-4431.

Signed by:
Mario Gonzalez
Acting State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments (2)

- 1 - Collar Brass Insignia Policy Statement (1 pp)
- 2 - Wearing of Collar Brass (5 pp)

POLICY STATEMENT

COLLAR BRASS INSIGNIA

for

California Bureau of Land Management Fire Management Program Officials

I. PURPOSE.

This policy sets forth guidelines for the wearing of collar brass insignia for BLM Fire Management Program Officials in the State of California.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a uniform means of identifying command and rank structure that is common to all fire management agencies within California. This policy will provide for a visual and rapid means of recognizing the rank designations for command officials, and is intended to promote quick identification and communication with key management personnel by officials from other agencies and the members of the public. These BLM approved rank designations do not correspond directly to supervisory responsibilities, which are defined in agency position descriptions.

California fire management personnel have been called upon to interface and conduct joint operations with large fire agencies with traditional methods of identifying command personnel. It is critical that as our role as partner continues to increase with these agencies, we establish policies that will continue to build our credibility and enhance our relationship. In the past, confusion has risen with the public and cooperating fire management agencies as to who is in charge when confronted with multiple officials in field situations, in meetings, planning sessions, and in training. This is especially true in some of our offices with larger numbers of fire management personnel.

II. GUIDELINES FOR WEAR.

All uniformed employees in the classes listed below that wear collar brass will wear the type of collar brass as indicated for that designation. Silhouette gold star-type collar brass must be one-half of an inch in size. All other silhouette-type collar brass must be approximately seven-eighths of an inch in size. The approved manufacturer is Blackington & Company.

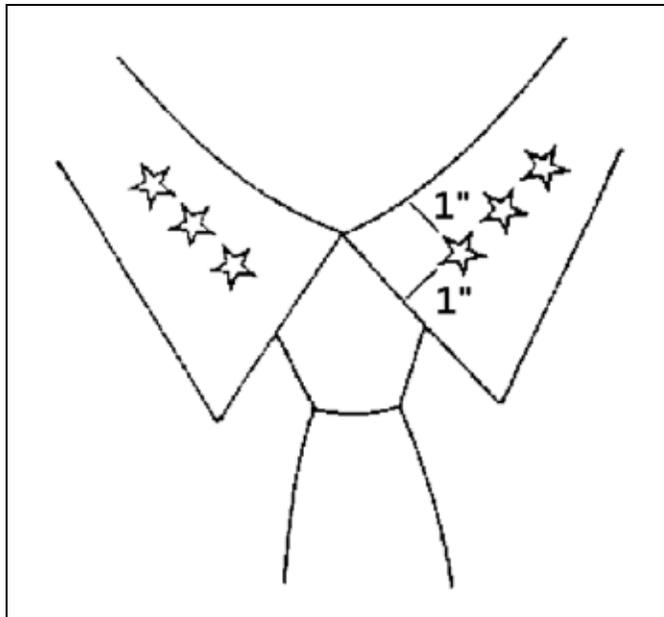
Rank designations for BLM Fire Program personnel are as follows:

 5 Gold Stars	<p>State Director</p>
 4 Gold Stars	<p>Associate State Director</p>
 3 Gold Stars	<p>State Fire Management Officer</p>
 2 Gold Stars	<p>State Aviation Manager State Fuels Specialist State Fire Operations Specialist</p>
 1 Gold Star	<p>State Aviation Pilot North & South Operations Coordinators State Fire & Aviation Administrator State Equipment Manager</p>

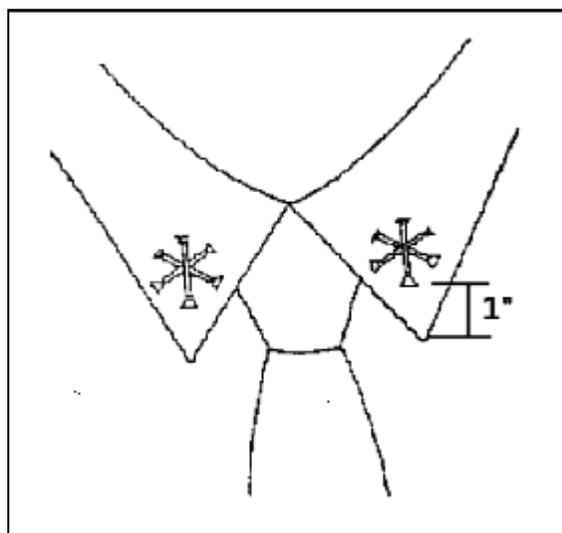
 <p>5 Crossed Gold Bugles</p>	<p>District/Regional Fire Management Officer</p>
 <p>4 Crossed Gold Bugles</p>	<p>Assistant District/Regional FMO</p>
 <p>3 Crossed Gold Bugles</p>	<p>Area/Zone Fire Management Officer Area/Zone Aviation Manager</p>
 <p>2 Crossed Gold Bugles</p>	<p>Battalion Chief Prevention Officer Hot Shot Superintendent Helitack Module Leader</p>
 <p>2 Vertical Silver Bugles (Nickel finish)</p>	<p>Engine Captain Hot Shot Foreman Assistant Helitack Module Leader</p>
 <p>1 Vertical Silver Bugle (Nickel finish)</p>	<p>Engine Operator/Engineer</p>

WEARING COLLAR INSIGNIA

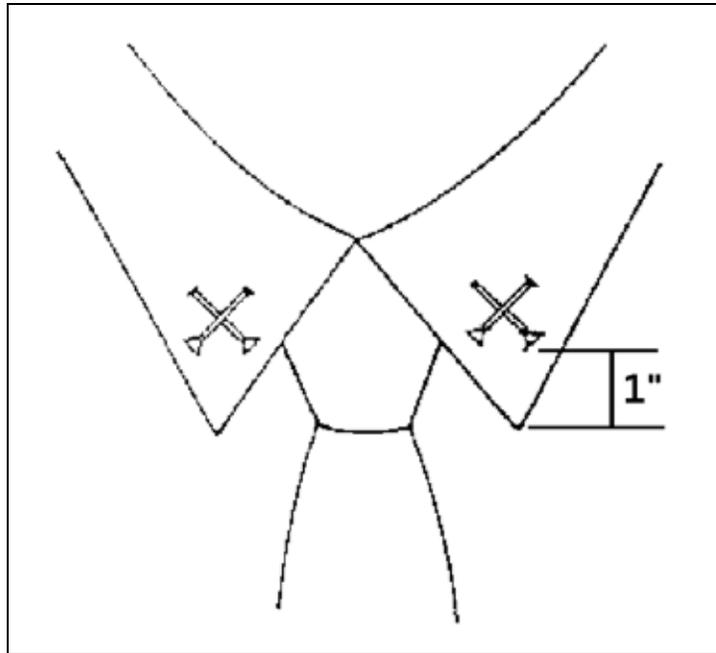
Manner of wearing collar insignia.



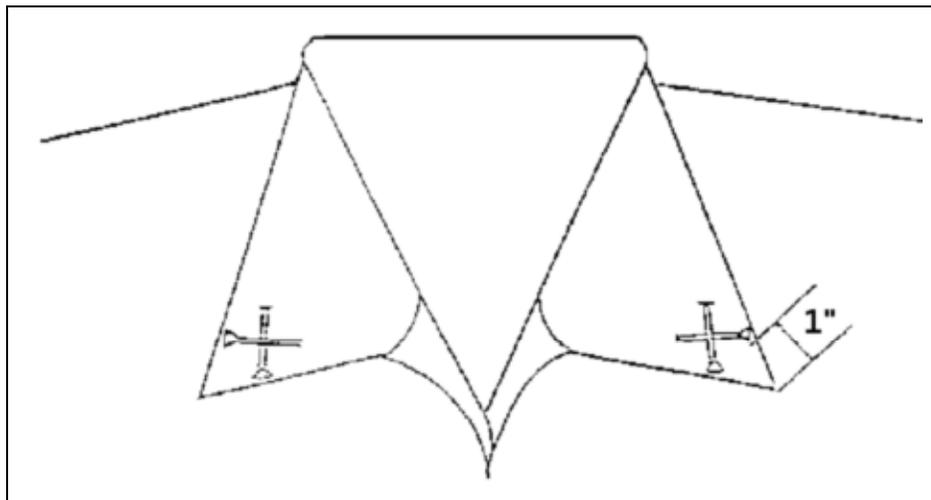
Stars will be centered on each collar, parallel to the inside of the collar, 1" from the front. This will apply with or without a necktie.

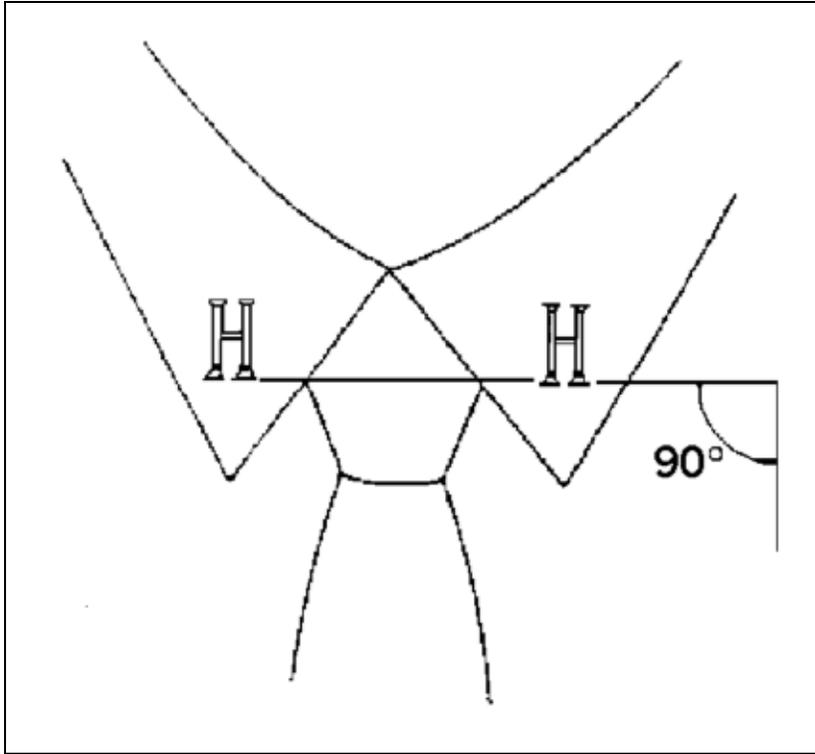


When the collar insignia contains an odd number of crossed bugles, the middle bugle will point at the collar tip. This will apply with or without a necktie.

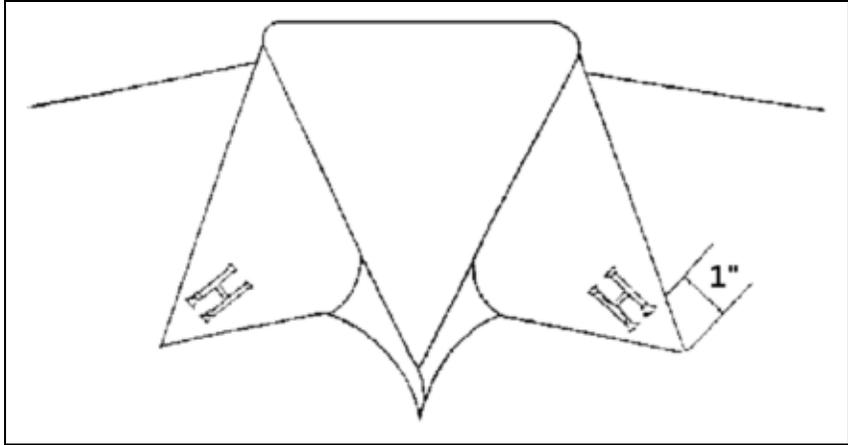


When the collar insignia contains an even number of crossed bugles, the middle point between the bugles will point at the collar tip. This will apply with or without a necktie.





Uncrossed bugles will be worn with a necktie as shown above.



Uncrossed bugles will be worn without a necktie as shown above.