



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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July 19, 2005

In Reply Refer to:
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EMS TRANSMISSION: 7/19/05
Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2005-048**
Expires: 09/30/06

To: CDD District Manager, CDD Field Managers
Attention: Fire Management Officers

From: State Director

Subject: 2005 CA Desert District Fire Readiness Review Actions **DD: 07/29/05**

The Readiness Review for the California Desert District was conducted between May 17 and May 23, 2005. The review team was led by Gary Cardoza and Paul Bannister from the BLM California State Office, Branch of Fire and Aviation. The areas reviewed included: Olancha and Salt Wells Fire Stations (Ridgecrest F.O.), Hole-In-The-Wall Interagency Fire Station (Needles F.O.), Apple Valley Fire Station (Barstow F.O.) and Black Rock Interagency Fire Station (Palm Springs F.O.). All suppression personnel, suppression resources, and Line Officers were reviewed and/or interviewed.

The Review Team was composed of:

Gary Cardoza – State Fire Equipment Specialist
Paul Bannister – State Fire Operations Specialist
Anne Marie Carlson – State Fire Business Management Specialist
Craig Barnes – State Fuels Management Specialist
Maria Soto – Bakersfield F.O., IRM

The Apple Valley Helitack Crew was reviewed by:
Chris Parkan – State Aviation Manager

Results:

The overall results of the review were positive. The crews all proved to be proficient during all phases of the operational drills. It is our finding that all of the California Desert District's fire suppression resources are well trained and prepared to safely and effectively fight fire for the 2005 fire season.

Action items:

The following is a list of items that were recognized during the review process that need some corrective action.

- Insure that current Red Cards have been issued to all employees engaged in fire suppression/support activities.

Olancha Fire Station:

- Improve employee files/documentation and filing system.

Ridgecrest Field Office:

- WFSA training for FMO and Line Officer
- Fire leadership for managers training for the Associate Field Office Manager

Hole-in-the-wall Fire Station:

- Both BLM and NPS crews should consider a progressive hose lay that can supply continuous water when being deployed
- Develop a station agreement/operations plan between the BLM and NPS
- Training/ Red Card protocol needs to be outlined in NPS/BLM Ops plan
- Primary acting for NPS needs fire leadership for managers
- Efforts need to be made to put on higher level training courses at the Field Office level

Apple Valley Fire Station:

- The progressive hose drill selected by the crews needs to be evaluated for better efficiency
- Practice needs to continue. Because of the smaller size of the crew this year, they need to do more practice as a smaller crew

Black Rock Fire Station:

- EPAP's need to be in place between Field Office Manager, Field Office FMO and Engine Captain.
- Continue to evaluate different types of hose lays
- Crew needs continued practice in the donning of the SCBA units

Please provide written documentation that these action items have been corrected, or that a process has been initiated for resolve **by July 29, 2005**. Forward your information to Paul Bannister, CA State Fire Operations Specialist, and feel free to call with any questions and/or concerns at (916) 978-4437.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this Readiness Review process.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management