We are committed to improving firefighter safety, which is our highest priority. As you prepare for the upcoming fire season, please ensure that all personnel participating in fire suppression or prescribed fire duties that may be subject to assignments on the fireline receive the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training.

The Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have adopted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Handbook 9213-1, Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Redbook). Attached is the 2003 direction for conducting annual fireline safety refresher training from Chapter 5. Those FS and BLM offices in the Pacific Northwest will use the following in addition to the Redbook direction:

1. Local managers and line officers will personally communicate their expectations of leadership in fire management.
2. The Thirtymile OSHA Citations will be reviewed. They can be found on the FS website at http://fsweb/oshadoc/osha.pdf.
3. Completion of refresher training will be documented including date of training, curriculum, and names of participants.
4. Each Unit will review with Type 3-5 Incident Commanders Redbook Appendix G-1, Incident Complexity Analysis, as part of the incident transition procedures (attached).
5. On FS/BLM integrated units; 8 hours will be the minimum hour requirement.
6. On FS and integrated units; copies of the Thirtymile Accident Prevention Plan (APP) will be made available. The APP can found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/investigations/30mile/index.html.
7. Forest Service units will continue to post the Thirtymile OSHA Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions.

We expect your continued direct participation in pre-season meetings, fire schools, refresher training, and site visits.

/s/ Jim Golden (for)
LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester
Forest Service
Region 6

/s/ Jay Carlson (for)
ELAINE M. BRONG
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

2 Attachments
1 - Chapter 5, Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training Outline (1p)
2 - Incident Complexity Analysis, Appendix G (1p)

BLM Distribution
WO (FA-100) – 1
Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in fire suppression or prescribed fire activities who may be subject to assignments on the fireline. Any unescorted visitors must meet the requirements specified in Chapter 4 of this volume.

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training must include the following core topics:

- **Entrapments** – Use training and reference materials to study the risk management process (as identified in the Incident Response Pocket Guide) and rules of engagement (e.g., LCES, 10, 18, Look Up, Look Down, Look Around).
- **Current Issues** – Review and discuss identified “hot topics” and “national emphasis topics.” Review forecasts and assessments for the upcoming fire season and discuss implications for firefighter safety.
- **Fire Shelter** – Review and discuss last resort survival. Conduct “hands-on” fire shelter inspections. Practice shelter deployments in applicable crew/module configurations. No “live fire” exercises for the purpose of fire shelter deployment training will be conducted.
- **Other Hazards and Safety Issues** – Choose additional hazard and safety subjects, which could include SAFENET, current safety alerts, site/unit specific safety issues and hazards.

These core topics must be sufficiently covered to ensure that personnel are aware of safety concerns and procedures and can demonstrate proficiency in fire shelter deployment. The minimum refresher training hour requirements for each agency is identified below. Training time may be extended in order to effectively complete this curriculum or to meet local training requirements.

- **BLM** – 4 hours
- **FWS** – 8 hours
- **NPS** – 8 hours
- **USFS** – 8 hours

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training will have a 12-month currency.

A web site titled “Annual Wildland Fire Safety Refresher Training” is available to assist in this training. It can be reached through the National Interagency Fire Center’s homepage “Safety” link at www.nifc.gov.

**USFS** – The Incident Complexity Analysis Appendix G will be shared with all Type 3, 4, & 5 Incident Commanders. Review of this guide should be a part of your annual refresher training.

The Chief, Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and District Rangers will personally communicate their expectation of leadership in fire management. This will be completed prior to fire season and in conjunction with National Leadership Team meetings and annual fire schools.

Each fireline qualified individual will receive training in the FS Code of Conduct.

**Code of Conduct for Fire Suppression:**

- Firefighter safety comes first on every fire every time.
- The 10 Standard Firefighting Orders are firm…we don’t break them; we don’t bend them.
- Every firefighter has the right to know that his or her assignments are safe.
- Every fireline supervisor, every fire manager, and every administrator has the responsibility to confirm that safe practices are known and observed.

Additionally, entrapment avoidance and deployment protocols have been revised and issued in the Incident Response Pocket Guide published in January (PMS No. 461/NFES No. 1077). The guide contains a specific “Risk Management Process” on page 1, and “Last Resort Survival” protocols on page 18. This guide will be issued to every firefighter during refresher fire training courses held each year.

**Release Date: January 2003**

Attachment 1
## Incident Complexity Analysis (Type 3,4,5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Behavior</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuels extremely dry and susceptible to long-range spotting or you are currently experiencing extreme fire behavior.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather forecast indicating no significant relief or worsening conditions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current or predicted fire behavior dictates indirect control strategy with large amounts of fuel within planned perimeter.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Firefighter Safety

| Performance of firefighting resources affected by cumulative fatigue.                                                                                                                                         |     |    |
| Overhead overextended mentally and/or physically.                                                                                                                                                           |     |    |
| Communication ineffective with tactical resources or dispatch.                                                                                                                                             |     |    |

### Organization

| Operations are at the limit of span of control.                                                                                                                                                            |     |    |
| Incident action plans, briefings, etc. missing or poorly prepared.                                                                                                                                       |     |    |
| Variety of specialized operations, support personnel or equipment.                                                                                                                                       |     |    |
| Unable to properly staff air operations.                                                                                                                                                                  |     |    |
| Limited local resources available for initial attack.                                                                                                                                                      |     |    |
| Heavy commitment of local resources to logistical support.                                                                                                                                                  |     |    |
| Existing forces worked 24 hours without success.                                                                                                                                                           |     |    |
| Resources unfamiliar with local conditions and tactics.                                                                                                                                                     |     |    |

### Values to be protected

| Urban interface; structures, developments, recreational facilities, or potential for evacuation.                                                                                                             |     |    |
| Fire burning or threatening more than one jurisdiction and potential for unified command with different or conflicting management objectives.                                                                |     |    |
| Unique natural resources, special-designation areas, critical municipal watershed, T&E species habitat, cultural value sites.                                                                                |     |    |
| Sensitive political concerns, media involvement, or controversial fire policy.                                                                                                                             |     |    |

If you have checked “Yes” on 3 to 5 of the analysis boxes, consider requesting the next level of incident management support.