

LET'S TALK TRAINING
BLM Fire Training Unit
Spring 2009

BLM Fire Training Unit Announces a New Leader

Ted Mason has accepted the position of BLM Fire Training Unit Leader replacing Aitor Bidaburu who took a job as Fire Program Specialist for FEMA-US Fire Administration located at NIFC.

Most readers recognize Ted as the “face of fire” from the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher videos, coordinator of the Technical Fire Management (TFM) program, former BLM Fire Training Unit Training Specialist, and most recently Great Basin Training Unit Leader.

Ted is looking forward to the new challenges that come with this position.

If you have questions or concerns regarding BLM Fire Training, feel free to contact Ted at ted_mason@nifc.blm.gov.

SMART™ Driving—Blacks Creek IA DVD

Al Olson, BLM Fire Training Unit, and Bob Kambitsch, NWCG Instructional Media Unit, finished production of a defensive driving video titled SMART™ Driving—Blacks Creek IA.

The intent of the video is to provide BLM drivers with a fresh look at driving their government and personal vehicles.

Joe Darden, a professional driving trainer and video narrator, briefs viewers on his SMART Driving System™. The information provided can be used to enhance defensive driving skills and can be incorporated into safety tailgate sessions or driver refresher training. By no means is the video program mandatory or a policy-driven training program.

Each BLM training officer who receives the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher will also receive a copy of the DVD when the refresher is distributed to the field some time in March 2009.

The video and other information regarding engine training is also available online at:

http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/projects/engine_training.html.

Engine Operator Course Offerings

Kingman, Arizona
February 22-27, 2009
Contact: Ken Shaver
623-580-5578

Farmington, New Mexico
March 1-6, 2009
Contact: Robin Holbrook
575-751-4759

Moab, Utah
April 12-17, 2009
Contact: Jaki Nordrum
801-539-4127

Carson, Nevada
May 10-15, 2009
Contact: Scott Johnson
775-885-6195

The Art and Science of Fighting Wildfire

Many training officers have inquired about the availability of the 2009 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher—The Art and Science of Fighting Wildfire. In a recently circulated memorandum, the Safety and Health Working Team identified a tentative release date of March 20.

As soon as the BLM Training Unit receives their DVD order, staff members will ship refresher packets and SMART™ Driving—Blacks Creek IA DVDs to BLM training officers. Course coordinators that intend to facilitate refresher training prior to April 1 are encouraged to utilize previous refresher programs or develop a

program of their own. Annual Fireline Safety Refresher training requirements can be found in Chapter 13—Firefighter Training & Qualifications of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* at

http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red_book/2009/Chapter13FirefighterTr_Quals.pdf.

Specific information regarding the program can also be found on the Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) Web site at

<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.

Contact was made with each BLM training officer in fall 2008 to update contact information as well as determine each training officer's need for 2009. If your order has changed, please contact Pam McDonald at (208) 387-5318 prior to March 1.

BLM Fire and Aviation Training Information Job Aid

The BLM Fire and Aviation Training Information Job Aid is an online resource that provides BLM employees and others responsible for training a source document addressing the processes and responsibilities through which wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire qualifications and training are established and managed within the BLM.

The job aid which is located at

http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/publications/job_aid.html is under revision at this time to incorporate changes that were made to the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Redbook)* for 2009. Training officers should ensure that training requirements are accurate by referring to the Redbook until the revision is complete.

Training officers are encouraged to participate in the maintenance of the job aid. Comments regarding inaccuracies and suggestions for resources that will help other training officers should be directed to Al Olson, BLM Training Specialist, at 208-387-5308 or via e-mail at al_olson@nifc.blm.gov.

Prescribed Fire On-the-Job Training Program

The BLM Prescribed Fire On-the-Job Training (RX OJT) Program provides BLM employees an opportunity to gain prescribed fire experience and complete position task books. Trainees must meet training and qualification requirements for the position and have a position task book initiated. Prescribed fire assignments will target each individual's position task book completion needs.

Eva Brown, BLM Fire Training Unit, coordinates with field offices and other agencies to find assignments for candidates. Assignments are made based on a particular trainee's needs such as position, fuel type, complexity, assignment length, and time frames.

Specific information regarding the RX OJT Program can be found at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/rx_ojt.html.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Eva at 208-387-5985 or via e-mail at eva_brown@nifc.blm.gov.

UNLV GS-0401 Education Program

BLM Fire and Aviation in partnership with University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), offer an interagency educational program designed to meet the requirements of the GS-0401 Fire Management Specialist series. This education opportunity is open to interagency employees occupying various fire management positions who must transition into the GS-0401 series and for employees who intend to transition into the GS-0401 series to expand their career opportunities. It is not intended for people who already meet the educational requirements for the GS-0401 series.

Specific information regarding the UNLV GS-0401 Education Program can be found at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/unlv.html.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Ted Mason at 208-387-5334 or via e-mail at ted_mason@nifc.blm.gov.

Technical Fire Management (TFM)

BLM Fire and Aviation offers an educational opportunity for fire management candidates to attend Technical Fire Management (TFM) sponsored by Washington Institute and Humboldt State University. This educational opportunity is designed to improve the technical proficiency of fire specialists beyond the level that may be attained through on-the-job training. The subject matter includes statistics, fire ecology, fire behavior, fuels management, data analysis, economics and finance. Specific information regarding Technical Fire Management can be found at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/tfm.html.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Ted Mason at 208-387-5334 or via e-mail at ted_mason@nifc.blm.gov.

Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award

The Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award is presented by the NWCG Leadership Committee to remember Paul Gleason's many contributions to the wildland fire community and recognize individuals or groups that exhibit the same spirit and dedication to leadership—those who lead by example. This national recognition will acknowledge those in the wildland fire service who exemplify the wildland fire leadership values and principles.

The Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award program:

- Recognizes actions associated with wildland fire;
- Recognizes actions within the last two years;
- Recognizes individuals or groups at all levels;
- Promotes the wildland fire leadership values and principles.

Mentoring and Teamwork

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding effort or accomplishment related to the wildland fire leadership principles of developing others for the future and building the team.

Motivation and Vision

This award recognizes an individual or group for providing inspired vision and clear intent. This could be demonstrated by influencing others to achieve an exceptionally difficult mission or improve the organization.

Initiative and Innovation

This award recognizes an individual or group for executing an outstanding initiative or innovation related to the implementation of the wildland fire leadership development program.

To learn more about the award and to nominate deserving wildland fire personnel, visit the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program Web site at http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/documents/gleason_award_info.html.

BLM Fire Training Contact Information

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http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training.html