



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2001-001**

Expiration Date: 09/30/02

To: CDD District Manager, All Field Managers
Attn: District FMO's, All Field Office FMO's

From: State Director

Subject: California BLM Policy for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
(SCBA) Units on BLM Engines

DD: 5/15/01

This is a reissuance of the 1995 California BLM Policy for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units on BLM engines. This policy, and the SCBA Operations Guide will be reviewed and updated prior to the 2001 fire season. A small task group will be organized to conduct the review. Implementation of this policy is required for the continued use of SCBA's. Each District/Region must meet the standards set for medical requirements, equipment, training and clothing as established in the BLM California SCBA Operations Guide by **May 15, 2001**.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, (SCBA) units are used in some California wildland fire organizations. Their use provides additional protection to firefighters responding to vehicle fires, hazardous material spills and structures fires while providing wildland fire protection through Direct Protection Area Agreements. Increased potential exposure to toxic smoke and gases at wildland fire incidents is due to the increasing occurrence of the above fire types.

At present, the California BLM Fire Equipment Committee has taken steps to provide protection to the firefighter by installing SCBA units on all new heavy engines (class 667). This required the installation of SCBA units on all Type 3 engines, both Model 5's and Model 14's.

The BLM emphasis in using SCBA units on structure fires will be to preserve life and protect property. Our policy of NOT entering structures for suppression efforts will remain the same. We will continue to provide structure protection from the outside only.

Use of SCBA on vehicle fires will be done in a safe, yet aggressive manner. The SCBA units will be worn throughout the extinguishment and mop-up phases of this type of incident. To offer maximum safety to the firefighter during these types of fires, all water used will be treated with a

Class A extinguishing agent.

Our objective for installing the SCBAs is not to provide a new way for our firefighters to fight fires, but provide protection from what they are already exposed to.

The policy and requirements to be followed by all BLM California suppression forces utilizing SCBA's can be found in the SCBA Operations Guide. If you have any questions or need a copy of the guide, contact Doug Waggoner, State Fire Operations, at 916-978-4437.

Signed
Al Wright
Acting State Director

Authenticated
Liza Raymundo
Records Management