



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**



California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)

August 22, 2008

In Reply Refer To:  
9215 (CA943) P

EMS TRANSMISSION: 8/22/08  
Information Bulletin No. **CA-2008-018**

To: All State Fire Management Officers  
All State Apprenticeship Coordinators

From: State Fire Management Officer

Subject: Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program – 2009 **DD: 09/30/08**  
**10/15/08**  
**11/01/08**

The recruitment and selection process for Apprentices attending the 2009 Basic Apprenticeship Academies will be conducted by State Office Branches of Human Resources; all apprentices will continue to be hired under the Student Career Education Program (SCEP). A national vacancy announcement will not be issued. Most offices have indicated that they intend to select non-competitively in accordance with the SCEP hiring authority. Each state may select on a competitive basis, however vacancy announcements will be processed by the respective State Office Branch of Human Resources for states that choose this process. The following timeline has been established for response by the State Apprenticeship Coordinators for participation in the 2009 Apprenticeship Program.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
State Recruitment Bulletin (for competitive selections only)	09/30/08 (closing date)	State Apprenticeship Coordinators / State Office Human Resources
Request number of slots needed for 2008 Basic Academies	09/30/08	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Submit names of employees selected for 2008 Basic Academies	10/15/08	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Submit final changes to slot allocations for 2008	11/01/08	State Apprenticeship Coordinators
Provide names of Apprentices returning for Advanced Academies	11/01/08	State Apprenticeship Coordinators

The National Office of Fire and Aviation will continue to cover the cost of tuition, room and board for participation in the Apprenticeship Program for two people per state for each Academy, both the Basic and Advanced (a total of four apprentices each year). States wishing to enroll more than two people per Academy should advise the BLM Apprenticeship Program staff as soon as possible. As in the past, if you choose to send more than two people to the Basic Academy, your state will encumber the cost of \$2,750 per person for each person over the two-person allocation covered by the National Office of Fire and Aviation. This cost covers lodging, meals (Monday through Friday,) and tuition for the Basic Academy. **Each state is responsible for the salary, overtime, uniform allowance, travel and per diem (Saturday and Sunday) for all program participants, in both the Basic and Advanced Academies.**

All slots requested by a state which are not filled after November 1, 2008, become the fiscal responsibility of that state. Please ensure that your State Coordinator advises the BLM Apprenticeship Program staff of any changes in the requested slots *before* November 1, 2008. Be prepared to furnish a charge code when all slots are requested, if more than two are requested for either the Basic or Advanced Academy. As indicated in the table above, State Apprenticeship Coordinators must provide the names of people returning for the Advanced Academies for 2009 no later than November 1, 2008. In the event there is a no-show for the Advanced Academy after that date, the state will encumber the cost of \$3,700.

Overtime required during the Basic and Advanced Academies (this does not include travel to and from the Academy site):

Basic Academy	Academy check-in and Orientation	NTE 2 hours
	Agency Orientation	NTE 1 hour
	Field Exercise	NTE 6 hours
	Total	NTE 9 hours
Advanced Academy	Academy check-in and Orientation	NTE 2 hours
	Agency Administrative Follow-up	NTE 1 hour
	Field Exercise	NTE 4 hours
	Total	NTE 7 hours

The term of apprenticeship is 4,000 work hours, during a period not less than two or more than four calendar years. Please visit the website: <http://www.wfap.net> for curriculum information and prerequisite training for academy attendance.

On the first morning of the Basic Academy, the S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior examination is given (*this course is an Academy prerequisite and is NOT taught at the academy.*) Apprentices must pass the examination with a score *not* lower than 70 percent to remain in the program. Those who are not successful are returned to the home unit for removal from the apprenticeship program.

Basic Academy dates for 2009 are as follows:

Basic Academy 47	March 8 through April 3
Basic Academy 48	March 15 through April 10
Basic Academy 49	March 29 through April 24
Basic Academy 50	April 5 through May 1

Advanced Academies in 2009 will be held on the following dates:

Advanced Academies 42/43/44	January 11 through February 6
Advanced Academies 45/46	February 8 through March 6

We have seen outstanding apprenticeship representation on behalf of the agency over the years in both academic and physical achievement. We look forward to working with you in achieving training and workforce management objectives through this program.

Please contact Nate Gogna at 916-640-1080 for assistance, or [ngogna@ca.gov.blm](mailto:ngogna@ca.gov.blm)

Signed by:  
Craig Barnes  
State Fire Management Officer

Authenticated by:  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management