

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

R-6

OR/WA

**Bureau of Land
Management**

**United States
Department of
the Interior**

Reply Refer To: 5100(FS)/ 9210 (BLM) (OR-934) P

Date: May 25, 2006

EMS TRANSMISSION 06/05/2006

FS-Memorandum

BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2006-121

To: Forest Service Forest Supervisors and Bureau of Land Management District Managers

Subject: Annual Fireline Refresher Training

There appears to be considerable confusion as to what individuals need to attend the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher course for qualification and certification purposes. Safety Refresher attendance policies differ among field units, which causes confusion. On occasion, this prohibits the use of qualified resources, and, in some cases, unnecessarily increases training costs. Some units have established a policy that all personnel, regardless of position, will attend the refresher course. That policy is in conflict with the intent and spirit of the policy stated in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Standards, PMS 310-1 Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, and FSH 5109.17 – Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook (2004).

Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training – Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in wildland fire who may be subject to assignments on the fireline*.

PMS 310-1 Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) Training – Attendance at an Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is required for designated positions in this guide in order to maintain currency, and for all personnel assigned to positions with fireline duties and for any position assigned to the fireline for non-suppression tasks.

FSH 5109.17 – Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook (2004)

3. Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in fire suppression or prescribed fire activities that may be subject to assignments on the fireline, for example, technical specialists, bus drivers, and ground support personnel delivering resources to the fireline.

* Fireline is used as an inclusive term for the area or location of suppression control operations where additional risk exists.

Units should not make attendance **mandatory and a condition of certification** for individuals in positions such as procurement unit leader, buying team member or dispatcher, among others. These positions fall under the category of escorted visitors to the fireline pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

The direction found in PMS 310-1 is position specific and provides the most focused direction to be followed.

/s/ Karyn L. Wood
KARYN L. WOOD
Director, Fire and Aviation
Forest Service
Region 6

/s/ James J. Furlong (for)
CARL W. GOSSARD
Acting Branch Chief
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

cc:
WO, Fire and Aviation
FMO's

BLM Distribution:
WO – (FA-100)