

**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: September 23, 2007

FS-Memorandum

EMS TRANSMISSION 09/24/2007

BLM-Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-086

Expires: 09/30/2008

To: All Forest and District Fire Management Officers

Subject: Incident Signing

The Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry sent a letter on April 2, 2007, that addressed the need for incident signing as a result of a serious motor vehicle accident in Utah in 2005. The accident resulted in injuries to ten firefighters and substantial equipment loss.

Because of the risk associated with working on/around road systems during fire incidents and to maintain the highest level of dedication to safety and risk management, we have purchased a set of road signs for all Forest Service and BLM engines in the Pacific Northwest.

The "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" (MUTCD) is the national standard for signs on traffic control devices for roads. The regulations in 23 CFR 655.603 requires that the MUTCD be followed on all Federal, State, and local roads open to public travel. In consultation with the MUTCD standards, we have ordered pink and black, highly reflective, roll up signs and stands. The set will provide each engine with signs to be placed on each side of the road so that all oncoming traffic will be notified of the possibility of personnel and equipment in the roadway or on the shoulder of the road.

Once you receive your signs, please review and share the USDA Incident Sign Installation Guide (5100-Fire 0551-2814-MTDC) to ensure proper usage and application and that the placement meets the required MUTCD standards.

It is our hope that with this tool available to all Initial attack engines, we can be proactive in our risk management and prevent such accidents from happening in the Pacific Northwest.

/s/

J.A. Kendall Snell
J.A. Kendall Snell
Director, Fire, Fuels and Aviation
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/s/

Carl W. Gossard
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Branch Chief, Fire and Aviation
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cc:

OR-934 (Carl Gossard, Ken Snell, Jim Furlong, David Summer, Shelby Gales)