

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
2850 YOUNGFIELD STREET  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7093  
July 8, 1998

In Reply Refer To:  
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EMS Transmission 07/08/98  
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-98-042  
Expires: 09/30/99

To: District Managers and Area Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Search and Rescue Assistance

Over the past several years the Rifle helitack crew and the contract helicopter have assisted several county sheriff's departments during search and rescue (SAR) operations. Some of these SAR operations have involved the recovery and transportation of human remains. The possibility that BLM personnel could become involved in recovering and preparing human remains for removal has been raised as an issue.

BLM should continue to support SAR operations within the scope of our authority. Specifically, the approved use of the helitack crew and contract helicopter in support of SAR operations may continue. The support to SAR operation may include transportation of personnel and equipment and in flying search patterns. Properly prepared human remains may be transported with the pilot's approval.

BLM and contractor personnel will not assist in recovering or preparing human remains for transport. This policy is based upon several factors. Such work is beyond the scope of the position descriptions and what constitutes reasonable duties. BLM employees are neither trained nor equipped to perform such duties. In addition, there are legal, medical and ethical aspects that exceed BLM's authority.

Questions may be addressed to Ron Meyer, State Aviation Manager, at (303) 239-3809 or at GroupWise at RMEYER.

Signed by  
Brian Bernard

Authenticated by  
Don Snow

Acting State Director

EMS Operator