

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

**Colorado State Office  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093**

August 1, 2002

In Reply Refer To:  
CO-934 (P)  
9212, 3160

EMAIL TRANSMISSION 08/01/2002  
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-2002-050  
Expires: 09/30/2003

To: All Field Managers and Center Managers

From: Colorado State Director

Subject: Template for Fire Prevention Order, Oil and Gas Operations

Attached you will find a template for a Fire Prevention Order (FPO) pertaining to oil and gas operations. This FPO is to be used for oil and gas operations in areas with Stage II Fire Restrictions. Given that all Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands are currently subject to Stage II Fire Restrictions, all offices must implement this oil and gas FPO by no later than August 9, 2002. To assist you in implementing this FPO, we have provided a standardized letter that you can send to all operators.

This FPO was developed through a collaborative effort between federal and state government and the oil and gas industry. This allowed for development of a FPO that protects public safety and natural resource values while at the same time, provides the flexibility to allow for continued oil and gas operations. While we recognize the need for local flexibility in the wording of this FPO, our partners have stressed the importance of having consistently worded orders. As such, please coordinate any requested wording changes with the Branch Chief, Fluid Minerals.

In cases where an area is subject to Fire Closures, we recognize that additional restrictions may be warranted. These can include requirements that operators minimize, or postpone non-essential operations and maintenance activities, or that all associated oil and gas activities such as land surveying, resource inventories (i.e., cultural, wildlife, resource, etc) be postponed unless prior approval is given by the BLM Field Office. To ensure consistency, please coordinate implementation of any additional restrictions for oil and gas operations in areas with Fire Closures with the Branch of Fluid Minerals.

If you have questions concerning this FPO, please call Duane Spencer at (303) 239-3753.

Signed by  
Douglas M. Koza  
Acting State Director

Authenticated by  
Don Snow  
EMS Operator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
(Local Office Address)

Dear Operator:

As you know, Colorado is experiencing an extraordinary wildland fire situation this year, which has affected many users of the public lands, including oil and gas operators. We recognize that most Colorado oil and gas operators already have fire plans in place and appreciate that your presence in the field benefits Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in terms of locating new fires as well as providing equipment and water that can be used to suppress fires. In response to concerns over public safety and protection of resources, BLM has issued a number of Fire Prevention Orders (FPO). Enclosed you will find a FPO specific to oil and gas operations.

Development of this FPO was a collaborative effort involving both state government and industry representatives to ensure that BLM could achieve its goals of protecting public safety and public lands while providing operators flexibility in conducting oil and gas operations. The restrictions found in this oil and gas FPO will be in effect for areas covered by Stage II Fire Restrictions and contains many of the precautions already used by industry.

Operators are responsible for monitoring the status of wildfires in their areas of operation and taking appropriate actions to minimize risk to their personnel, as well as to operations, the public, and the environment. Operators are also responsible for assuring that their subcontractors follow the provisions of this order.

This order applies to all oil and gas operations on BLM administered land in Colorado, including those with private surface and federal minerals. This FPO will remain in effect from this date until rescinded by the local BLM Field or Center Manager.

We appreciate your continued cooperation during this extreme fire season. Questions or comments can be directed to the local BLM Field Office, Deputy State Director - Resource Services, or Branch Chief of Fluid Minerals, Colorado State Office.

Sincerely,

Field or Center Manager

1-Enclosure  
Oil and Gas Fire Prevention Order

TEMPLATE  
Bureau of Land Management  
**Insert Your Office Name**

Fire Prevention Order for Oil and Gas Operations  
Order No. **XXXX**

Pursuant to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 9212, this fire prevention order is being issued to protect human life, public resources, and improvements by preventing wildfires on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands and operations in Colorado. Consistent with 43 CFR 9212.1, 9212.3 and lease rights granted, certain oil and gas lease operations are subject to the following requirements and/or restrictions. Provisions in this notice are subject to penalties under 43 CFR 9212.4 and 18 USC 3571 and shall be enforced by BLM law enforcement personnel.

The 14 restrictions of this order shall be in effect when an area is at Stage II Fire Restriction. Information on fire restrictions can be found at <http://www.co.blm.gov/fire/firerestrictions.htm> or by contacting the local BLM Office. Additionally, current fire status for Colorado can be found at <http://wildfires.nwcg.gov/>

### **Stage II Fire Restrictions**

This order applies to oil and gas pipeline construction, access road construction and maintenance, drilling, completion, work over, testing and maintenance operations authorized by your oil and gas lease and associated rights-of-way that is performed by you and/or your subcontractor(s). The following restrictions apply:

1. All field personnel will carry an adequate radio or cell phone. Cell phone or radio coverage will be checked to establish a location from which emergency calls can be made.
2. All field personnel will carry emergency contact phone numbers with them at all times. Minimally, these numbers include the local fire and sheriff=s departments and BLM Fire Dispatch.
3. All fires will be reported to BLM fire dispatch immediately.
4. A pump, hose, nozzle and water supply will be available at all work locations. The pump, water supply, and at least 250 feet of : inch minimum diameter hose and 3 inch nozzle will be connected and ready for use during all periods of activity and post-activity fire patrol. The pump must deliver no less than 20 gallons per minute when pumping through 50 feet of hose with a 3 inch nozzle. A minimum of 500 gallons of water dedicated to the site is required, and it must be present during the entire duration of the operation. A dedicated water supply is not required when the activity is solely routine maintenance that does not pose a fire hazard.
5. Cars, pickups, and other vehicles with low mounted exhaust pipes shall park on the non-vegetated shoulders of federal and state highways, county roads, designated BLM roads, or newly constructed roadways [43 CFR 9212.1].
6. Vehicles and equipment shall not block access roads.

7. Operators will inform BLM of the location and duration (start date, end date, work hours) of active work sites (oil and gas pipeline construction, access road construction and maintenance, drilling, completion, work over, and testing). Contact the local BLM office with this information at least 24 hours before commencing activities. After hours, contact BLM fire dispatch. It is not necessary to inform BLM of routine maintenance visits that do not pose a fire hazard.
8. Smoking is prohibited except inside enclosed buildings or vehicles.
9. Using machinery that may cause ignition (e.g., welding, pipefitting, metal grinding, rock striking, explosives, etc.) or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame is only permitted under the following conditions:
  - \_ An extra person equipped with a shovel and fire extinguisher is present at all times
  - \_ A ten (10) foot diameter area is cleared of all surface vegetation, scraped to bare mineral soil, and thoroughly wetted down immediately prior to welding or grinding
  - \_ Cut vegetation is scattered well outside the cleared area, not piled
  - \_ Litter is removed
  - \_ Extra water is available to support welding and grinding
  - \_ A watch person patrols the site for two hours following cessation of welding operations
  - \_ Operations will be suspended if winds pick up sufficiently to carry sparks
10. Fire extinguishers. Every internal combustion engine, including each vehicle, and welding operation shall be equipped with a 22 pound (or larger) class ABC chemical fire extinguisher which has an easily readable pressure gauge, and is placed so as to be visible to the operator and ready for instant use.
11. Firefighting tools. Each vehicle used on operations, including those used for routine maintenance and related activities will carry at least one shovel per person and five gallons of water.
12. The operator will assure that all workers are aware of fire prevention and safety procedures; evacuation routes and procedures; the designated safe meeting place; proper deployment of firefighting tools; and emergency shut down procedures. The operator will have a roster of all persons on location, and the roster will be checked, in the event of an evacuation, to assure all have evacuated. The operator will assure that all workers have the list of emergency phone numbers.
13. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove or any type of charcoal-fueled broiler or open fire of any type is prohibited. Gas stoves may be used in cleared pads at least ten (10) feet from any vegetation. Fueling of stoves or other equipment may only be done in a ten (10) foot diameter cleared area, free of vegetation and scraped to bare mineral soil. A fire extinguisher must be within reach.
14. Flaring is discouraged. Companies are encouraged to use flaring as little as possible during high fire danger, and to utilize venting where it is safe. Flaring requires prior notification of the BLM Field Office, except emergency flaring. Emergency flaring requires prior notification of the BLM Field Office if the flaring can be reasonably anticipated, and in all other cases as soon as possible but in no event more than two (2) hours after the flaring begins. All flaring operations (except production flaring) will be continuously monitored by personnel onsite for a minimum of 24 hours.

## BLM Office Contacts

BLM Office Contacts (See “Directory” under <http://www.co.blm.gov> for additional information)

San Juan Field Office	970-247-4874	Durango Fire Dispatch	970-385-1324
Royal Gorge Field Office	719-269-8500	Pueblo Fire Dispatch	719-553-1600
Grand Junction Field Office	970-244-3000	Grand Junction FD	970-257-4800
White River Field Office	970-878-3800	Craig Fire Dispatch	970-826-5037
Little Snake Field Office	970-826-5000	Montrose Fire Dispatch	970-249-1010
Colorado State Office	303-239-3600	Fire Coordination	303-445-4300

Upon request, or as determined through exceptions granted, BLM and United States Forest Service personnel will conduct site visits to assist field crews with safe zone identification and to review fire preparedness and evacuation procedures. While this order allows for most operations to progress, you are still subject to potential evacuations.

Based on site specific conditions, variances from the above restrictions can be requested from the BLM Field Office.

### Penalties:

Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the regulations at Title 43 CFR 9212.1 shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both. Additional fines may apply under 18 USC 3571.

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**Field or Center Manager**

**Date**

This Fire Prevention Order will remain in effect from this date until rescinded