

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

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (CO-937) P

July 30, 2009

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/30/2009
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-2009-033
Expires: 09/30/2010

To: Field Managers and Center Managers
Attn: Unit Fire Management Officers

From: State Director

Subject: Wildland Fire/Fuels Personnel and Equipment Identification

Program Area: Fire Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) serves to reissue and clarify the previously established statewide standard for Bureau of Land Management personnel and equipment assigned to fire and fuels management in order to clearly identify emergency management resources on wildland fire and non-fire related assignments nationwide. This also defines the optional uniform apparel standards for fire and fuels management personnel while on duty.

Policy/Action: The Colorado State Fire Management Officer is responsible for ensuring statewide Bureau compliance with the implementation of this direction. The Unit Fire Management Officers are responsible for the implementation of this direction within their delegated fire management units:

- Attachment 1: Identifies the Colorado BLM fire emergency vehicle markings and warning systems for fire management vehicles.
- Attachment 2: Identifies the Colorado BLM clear text identification standards for vehicles and hardhats/helmets.
- Attachment 3: Identifies the Colorado BLM optional fire management uniform standards.
- Attachment 4: Identifies the National BLM marking and identification standard for fire engines.

Timeframe: This policy is effective immediately.

Budget Impact: In fiscal year 2009 (June 4, 2009), fire management units received supplemental “one-time” funding specifically for vehicle lettering and striping. Unit fire Management Officers should make the appropriate expenditures to properly fund this direction within their respective units.

Background: In June of 2006, Instruction Memorandum No. CO-IM-2006-040, provided direction that clearly identifies Bureau personnel as professional wildland fire management resources, and provides common identification standards for equipment and personnel. It is expandable to include other non-fire functional areas if the need arises. Due to the multi-jurisdictional response required of today’s federal wildland fire/fuels management resources, which often includes incidents of an all-risk nature, it is readily apparent that the fire and fuels resources of the Bureau may not be readily identified with other emergency response agencies at the state and local level. Confusion between federal and other agency terminologies often places our employees in situations that are not conducive to safe, prompt and efficient operations.

Wildland fire management terminology with reference to command and resource identification is generally unique to Federal Wildland agencies and is often foreign to our cooperators. For many years, the municipal, rural and state emergency response agencies have relied on a tried and true command and identification structure. Recently, with more and more involvement by federal wildland agency personnel into the true emergency and all-risk response environment, it has become apparent that our personnel are not generally identified as professional firefighting resources.

In 2006, when CO-IM-2006-040 was issued, many of the federal partners within the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area immediately responded with issuance of specific agency direction that mirrored the Bureau’s policy within Colorado. Currently, most of the federal partners operating within the interagency fire management units in Colorado have or are in the process of adopting standardized resource identification vehicle marking standards identical or complimentary to the existing Bureau standards as specified in the 2006 IM. This re-issuance of Colorado BLM’s identification policies and procedures will serve to ensure and reinforce that Colorado’s federal fire management programs will continue to operate in the spirit of interagency cooperation and portray their organizations in a professional manner.

Directives Affected: None.

Coordination: Vehicle and personnel identification systems outlined in the attachments will be fully implemented statewide by January 1, 2010.

Contact: If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kenneth R. Kerr, State Fire Management Officer at 303-239-3693, or by e-mail at Kenneth_Kerr@blm.gov.

Signed by:
David Hunsaker
Acting State Director

Authenticated by:
Cathy Cooney
Branch of IRM & Access

4 Attachments:

- 1 - Colorado BLM Emergency Vehicle Markings and Warning Systems (5pp)
- 2 - Colorado BLM Clear Text Identification Standards for Vehicles and Hardhats/Helmets (4pp)
- 3 - Colorado BLM Optional Fire Management Uniform Standards (3pp)
- 4 - National BLM Engine Markings (Striping/Numbering Plan 2009.pptx) (20pp)