



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354
<http://www.nifc.gov>



January 29, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA600) I

EMS Transmission 01/29/2010
Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2010-009
Expires: 09/30/2011

To: State Directors
From: Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC), Fire and Aviation
Subject: Prescribed Fire Policy and Direction

Program Area: Prescribed Fire Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) issues guidance for implementing the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (Rx Fire Guide) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Supplement to the Rx Fire Guide. This IM supersedes FA-IM-2009-014.

Policy/Action: When planning and implementing prescribed fire operations, the BLM state and local offices must adhere to the Rx Fire Guide and the BLM Supplemental standards (Attachment 1). The Rx Fire Guide is located at: http://www.nifc.gov/fire_policy/rx/rxfireguide.pdf.

The BLM state and local field offices may choose to implement stricter standards or additions than those identified in the July 2008 Rx Fire Guide and the BLM Supplement. The BLM Supplement identifies additional prescribed fire planning and implementation standards applicable to the BLM.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 there are some minor changes to this supplement, which was first issued in 2009.

1. The requirement to report accomplishments in the Management Information System (MIS) (previously identified in Element 21 of the Escaped Prescribed Fire Reports) has been deleted.

2. The requirement to complete the Rx300 Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation course has been deleted.

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately. The transition period to update prescribed fire plans to the Rx Fire Guide and the BLM Supplement standards ends March 1, 2010.

Budget Impact: There is minimal budget impact from this IM.

Background: The July 2008 Rx Fire Guide provides policy, direction, and standardized procedures associated with planning and implementing of prescribed fire for the five Federal land management agencies. The Rx Fire Guide describes what is minimally acceptable for prescribed fire planning and implementation. Agencies may choose to provide more restrictive standards and policy direction however; they must adhere to the minimum standards identified in the guide.

The FA IM-2009-014 required all prescribed fire plans to be updated to the new standards identified in the July 2008 Rx Fire Guide and BLM Supplement standards.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This IM replaces FA IM-2009-014 and attachments.

Coordination: This IM was coordinated with the Department of the Interior Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Contact: If you have any questions about this guidance or other prescribed fire planning and implementation procedure issues, contact David Mueller, 208-387-5151, Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division.

Signed by:
Gary Bowers, acting
Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC), Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Erin K. Maskalick
Records Management Specialist

Attachment:

- 1 – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Supplement to the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (9 pp)

Distribution:

FA DAD Staff
BLM ADs
BLM Library
Fire Leadership Team
State FMO's
Dave Mueller (FA600)