

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Internet Shutdown

The National Office of Fire and Aviation has been working with the Washington Office and BLM States for the past six weeks, addressing concerns over the lack of internet access. We are pursuing approval for internet access for the fire program while at the same time seeking temporary “workaround” solutions. Latest reports indicate that it may be several months and well into fire season, before we gain access to the internet or that any national workaround solutions are in place. It is therefore crucial that states take the initiative to verify existing or establish new interagency connections/agreements and/or electronic workarounds at a local or regional level before their fire season begins.

Depending on the BLM office locations and proximity to other agency offices, access to information may involve local electronic workarounds, use of automated systems at other agencies, establishing alternative non-electronic protocols using fax and other messaging, or if necessary, considering temporary co-location of personnel.

We are aware that in some instances prescribed fire opportunities may be missed, or fire suppression tactics may be altered due to this delay in accessing information. However, these are acceptable tradeoffs to ensure the continued safety of our firefighters and the public.

Signed by:
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