

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: Prescribed Fire Training

In the 2002 Annual Work Plan directives you will find an assignment to train all employees and cooperators who prepare prescribed fire plans for sites on BLM managed land. The need for this directive came from the findings in the Prescribed Fire Program and Escaped Prescribed Fire Reviews that have been conducted over the last three years. The findings have shown that many of the prescribed fire plans being written do not meet Bureau Manual 9214 *Prescribed Fire Handbook* requirements. The plans are missing required sections and often have safety and other issues/constraints identified in one section but never addressed or mitigated elsewhere in the plan. Should something happen that initiates an investigation, the BLM Director, State Director, Field Office Manager and Burn Boss are left at risk. The intent of the training is to assure everyone (including cooperators) writing prescribed fire plans for the Bureau meets our standards.

To assist in this effort, a workshop, "Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation," was conducted in Boise the last week in November. It was a Train-the-Trainer program with each state sending a five person core team. During the workshop each state team met several times to develop a strategy, identify the number of trainees and sessions needed, the location, etc., that would be used to teach the program within their state. All states made excellent progress in identifying their plan.

In February the Office of Fire and Aviation will send a complete revised master course package to each State Fuels Management person for use in their state. State teams have different approaches identified on how they plan to teach the course in their state in order to meet their state's needs. Some may choose not to use all the materials from the package, but at a minimum, all states need to cover the *Prescribed Fire Handbook*, i.e., Roles and Responsibilities, NEPA tie to resource and fire objectives, Management Summary purpose and content, Complexity Analysis determination procedures, project specific Job Hazard Analysis, prescription elements (especially as they relate to fuel moisture and relative humidity information), Prescribed Fire Plan Section Link Chart.

If you have any questions on this training, please contact Phil Range, Office of Fire and Aviation, at 208-387-5555.

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