

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

April 5, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA-500) P

EMS Transmission: 04/05/02
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2002-016
Expires: 09/30/03

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Restructuring the Helicopter Manager Position

DD: 05/01/02

Program Area: Fire and Aviation Management.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) directs the Bureau of Land Management offices to implement changes to the PMS 310-1, *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide* regarding minimum fire helicopter manager position standards. These changes are approved by the attached National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) memo and described in the Incident Operation Standards Working Team (IOSWT) memo included in the attachment.

Policy/Action: Requires updates to the Fire Qualification System (FQS/IQS). Fire Helicopter Managers (formerly HEMG) will be Red-Carded as HELB (Single Resource) or HCWN (Call-When-Needed) or both per the new training and experience requirements. Position Task Books for HELB and HCWN have been developed and publication is pending. Individuals currently qualified as HEMG may be grandfathered as HELB or HCWN (as appropriate) and are not required to complete the new Task Books.

Time Frame: NWCG specifies implementation no later than May 1, 2002.

Budget Impact: Minimal.

Background: A dual standard regarding helicopter manager position standards has existed for many years between those agencies meeting only 310-1 requirements and those agencies which adopted the higher *Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)* requirements as policy. The restructuring of the position in 310-1 creates two helicopter manager positions. The Helicopter Boss Single Resource (HELBS) streamlines progression of exclusive use Helitack/Rappel crewmembers to higher qualifications. The Helicopter Manager Call-When-Needed (HCWN) increases minimum training standards to manage federal CWN helicopters. HCWN requires only a moderate fitness rating, which fulfills management desire for a non-arduous helicopter manager.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: The attachment provides 310-1 minimum position requirements for HELBS and HCWN. All fire helicopter manager position standards have been removed from the new *2002 IHOG*. Position requirements for various helicopter positions now reside as follows:

1. BLM individuals red-carded as fire CWN Helicopter Manager must meet the new 310-1 requirements for HCWN.
2. BLM Exclusive Use fire helicopter position standards are displayed in the *2002 BLM Standards for Fire & Aviation Operations*, Chapter 12. (Crew Supervisor and Assistant standards exceed the minimum requirements for HELBS.)
3. BLM non-fire (project) helicopter management position standards are retained in the *2002 IHOG*.

Coordination: Fire Management Officers, Aviation Managers, Dispatchers/Coordinators, Fire Qualification Account Managers, Helicopter Managers and Incident Air Operations personnel must all be aware of the new position standards. Orders for HCWN must be specific to the intended mission and greater attention must be paid to individual fire qualifications. Since HCWN requires only a moderate fitness rating and ICT4 is no longer a prerequisite, Call-When-Needed helicopters ordered for initial attack operations must specify that the HCWN also be currently qualified as ICT4 (or other arduous fireline position, as appropriate).

Contact: Any questions or response to this IM should be directed to respective State Aviation Managers or Kevin Hamilton, National Aviation Office (FA-500), 208-387-5173.

Signed by:
Thomas Frey
Acting Director
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.
Office Services

1 Attachment

1 - Restructuring the Helicopter Manager Position Memo (6 pp)

Distribution:

Anne Jeffery, FA-101, WO
Jay Thietten, FA-101, WO
WO-560
BLM AD's
BC Library
Group Manager, Fire Operations
Group Manager, Planning and Resources
Group Manager, Aviation
Group Manager, Support Services
Cyndie Hogg, NARTC
State Fire Management Officers
State Aviation Managers

