

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

July 20, 2001

**In Reply Refer to:**

1112 (FA-131) P

EMS Transmission 07/20/01  
Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2001-041

To: State and Center Directors  
National Human Resources Management Center, HR-200 & HR-240

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Emphasis on Firefighter Safety and Training

Safety is emphasized in all firefighting training. However, I ask every firefighter to review hazard recognition and situational awareness especially as it relates to changes in fire behavior. Increased situational awareness means increased reaction time during a potentially unsafe fire situation.

Should safe alternatives become unavailable, the fire shelter is a last resort for personal protection. Shelter deployment is a high-risk, low-frequency action for which we must be prepared. Shelter deployment should be practiced regularly and include crew deployments with crew boss commands and appropriate deployment site selection. The 2001 edition of the fire shelter video, "Using Your Fire Shelter" and instruction guide, "Your Fire Shelter," should be reviewed to assist in training exercises.

Our aim is to recognize, manage, and minimize the risks involved with firefighting, providing the highest margin of safety in all of our fire management activities. Our most important priority is to ensure that every firefighter we send out returns home safely at the end of the day.

Signed by:  
Larry E. Hamilton  
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

**Distribution**

Jay Thietten, MIB 5627

Anne Jeffery, MIB 5627

Cyndie Hogg, NARTC

Support Services Group Manager

Fire Operations Group Manager

Planning/Resources Group Manager

Aviation Group Manager