

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

July 20, 1999

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA-130) P

EMS Transmission 7/20/99
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 99-018
Expires: 9/30/2000

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Prescribed Fire Oversight

DD: 9/1/99

As you are all aware, the Bureau recently experienced an escaped prescribed fire with very significant private property losses. An investigation team is currently working and expects to finalize its report by the end of July. Our basic policy concerning prescribed fire appears to be sound though we will continue to evaluate it and are prepared to modify it should the investigative team surface a concern.

We want to stress that we believe prescribed fire remains a critical component of our overall resource management program and are committed to safely and effectively applying it. We do believe it prudent given the recent event to ensure we are in full compliance with prescribed fire policy and are exercising an appropriate level of oversight. I am therefore requesting that each state office review their field offices' burn program for compliance with policy and for technical adequacy of all existing burn plans. The mechanism you use to accomplish this will be at your discretion; if you need personnel from either this office or from other states, we will assist in coordinating your request.

Please provide a summary of the results of your review by September 1, 1999, to Ron Dunton, Fire Program Manager, FA-130. If you need assistance or have additional questions, please contact Ron at 208-387-5154.

Signed by:
Lester K. Rosenkrance
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.