

FIRE LINE SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING COURSE DEVELOPMENT
AND ATTEND THE WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY SUMMIT

Submitted by: Stan Palmer, Safety Manager 5/15/01

This report summarizes two trips to Alberta, Canada. The Wildfire Safety Summit, October 9-13 2000 held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and the Fire line Safety officer Training Course Development session March 6-9, 2001 held in Hinton, Alberta Canada.

PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES OF TRIPS:

The purpose of the Wildfire Safety Summit trip was to act as BLM's representative on the NWCG-Safety and Health Working Team. The purpose of the second trip to Hinton, Alberta was to assist as an instructor for the Fire line Safety Officer course.

ITINERARY/ACTIVITIES:

The October Wildfire Safety Summit consisted of the presentation of over 30 speakers presenting professional papers. In addition, there were six breakout groups. I attended the Wildfire Safety and Human Errors breakout session. This group session allowed for the exchange of fire safety information. Following the Summit, the NWCG-SHWT met with the Training Specialist from the Training Center in Hinton and worked with that organization on a Wildland Fire Safety CD-ROM training disk.

During the March trip to the Fire line Safety Officer Course I presented a unit on accident investigation.

FINDINGS/OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

As mentioned earlier, the Wildland Safety Summit provided for a very good exchange of critical fire safety information. The follow up session with the training center on the Wildland fire Safety training disk revealed it to be very effective as a training tool. It is designed to be interactive and allows users to answer specific questions or return to the material for additional study. As a result of our introduction of this training tool, our working group has made arrangements with the contractor who developed the disk to modify it for use in US firefighter training. When the changes are complete, we will have a very inexpensive firefighter training aid. Additional discussions centered around the status and availability of our NWCG S-404 Safety Officer Course. Canada wants to use the S-404 course format to develop their Fire line Safety Officer Course. We agreed to provide the course outline and an instructor to assist with their presentation in March of 2001.

The March trip to Hinton was to fulfill our promise to provide an instructor for the Fire line Safety course modeled after S-404. I presented a unit on accident Investigation and the Safety officer's role. After the presentation, we discussed the policy, definitions and procedures of a Serious Accident Investigation Team. We reviewed current fatality reports and I introduced the

Agency Administrators Guide to an Incident Within an Incident, the importance and need for critical incident stress debriefing and for a new course called Taking Care of Our Own in Line of Duty Deaths.

I made the following recommendations to assist in the development of the course:

**Change the course name from Fireline Safety Officer to Wildland Fire Safety Officer training. I believe the course content and objectives are better defined with this title change.

**Continue with the certified course development and a workshop with incident commanders.

**Include in the course content a chapter/unit on Risk Management.

**Evaluate the need for a higher physical fitness level requirement. (The current requirement is light)

**Develop a statement of work and show where the Fireline Safety Officer fits into the organization.

**Evaluate the use of the existing ICS forms and the Resource Guide Checklist.

These trips offered an opportunity for a very good exchange of information and material and I think a great deal of time and money was saved through this exchange of information. I believe that what we learned in the Firefighter safety area can be shared with other countries hopefully reducing incidents of injury and reducing the number of fatalities.