CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 12
--FELLING BOSS TRAINING--

BACKGROUND

Felling Boss, S-235 is suggested training for the felling boss position. Prior to qualification as a felling boss, the individual also must complete Crew Boss (Single Resource) S-230 and be qualified as an advanced firefighter/squad boss (FFT1). Power Saws S-212 is among the training courses suggested for the FFT1 position.

Development of the S-235 course was initiated in FY 94. When the project leader left in August, 1995, the course was nearly completed, having gone through two test courses and a review. At that time, the project was handed off to another project leader for completion.

CURRENT STATUS

Our second project leader is much more experienced in course development. Upon review of the materials, he determined that instruction in S-235 was duplicating instruction in S-230 and S-212. He also determined that the instruction in S-230 and S-212 fully supported the tasks for the felling boss position. This was discussed with the subject matter specialists who had been assigned to the project. All agreed that all training necessary for the felling boss already existed in the S-212 and S-230 courses. The development group then made a recommendation (see attached memo) that S-235 be dropped from the curriculum.

RECOMMENDATION

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group agrees with the recommendations of the development group that:

1. Felling Boss S-235 be dropped from the curriculum

2. When revised, the Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide be changed to require Power Saws S-212 or equivalent training OR be certified as a feller by their agency.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

Upon approval of this recommendation:

1. The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group will stop further development and certification of the S-235 course. Materials will be retained on file for possible future use and copies will be made available upon request. The enhanced internal review process implemented

by the group last Spring will help to catch any future problems of this sort earlier in the development cycle.

2. The ICS Working Team will need to make appropriate changes to the qualifications system during the revision of 310-1.

APPROVED:

George H. Martin — 1-29-96

Chairman, Training Working Team — Date

John Philbin — 1-29-96

Chairman, ICS Working Team — Date