

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
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Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2003-021
Expires: 09/30/04

To: State Directors
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation
Subject: Wildland Fire Reporting Change

Program Area: Fire Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) documents a change in the fire reporting system to include whether the wildland fire burned inside the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) or outside the WUI.

Background: The timely completion and accuracy of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire reports is important to ensure correct reporting to the Management Information System (MIS), and the correct summarization of fire data for the Public Land Statistics, the Wildfire Statistics publications, and Government Performance Result Act (GPRA) reporting. It is the responsibility of the State Fire Management Officers to ensure the timely completion and accuracy of fire reports for their state.

The definition for WUI and WUI Fire follows:

WUI: The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. (Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, 1996). Each state may apply a more geographically specific definition of what constitutes WUI to account for difference in fire regimes, condition classes and local environmental and social factors.

WUI Fire: An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire that threatens loss of life or property within the WUI. The fire may or may not originate within the WUI. The determination will be made by the Agency Administrator or the Fire Management Officer and reported on the individual fire report (DI 1202).

Policy/Action: It is the policy of the Director of the Office of Fire and Aviation that effective immediately all fire reports must include whether the wildland fire burned inside the WUI or outside the WUI. The BLM fire reporting system has been modified to include the required fields to allow for this data input. In order to accurately report fiscal year (FY) 2003 data, all existing FY 2003 fire reports must be amended to include this data not later than March 31, 2003. The inclusion of this data will allow the GPRA reporting to be done by the National Office of Fire & Aviation and will avoid data calls to the field. The input required for this data is a single button for either inclusion as a threat to WUI or exclusion and is located in the site data screen for existing reports.

Time Frame: This IM is effective immediately.

Budget Impact: The application of this policy will have a positive impact on the budget by decreasing the need for data calls and verification of figures from the National Office.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None

Coordination: None.

Contact: If you have questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact Lynne Willoughby at (208) 387-5569 or Corey Grant at (208) 387-5433.

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