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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group
REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov
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SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Firefighter Safety Stand Down

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During the week of June 22-28, fire departments, firefighters, and Emergency Management Services personnel across the country will “stand down” for firefighter safety. NWCG has been a participant with the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and other groups in the private, and public sector in supporting this call for safety for four years.

This year’s stand down, titled “Committed to Long-Term Results,” has been expanded from one day to one week to allow participating agencies maximum flexibility for participating in the exercise. Topics this year include: Wellness & Fitness, vehicle safety for emergency responders, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The NWCG Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) urges you to take a moment of silence for line of duty deaths, and make a special effort to focus on your safety program for one day during the week. Broaden your unit’s safety awareness that week by providing tailgate safety sessions, or similar brief programs that are unique, and focus on low risk, high frequency events in your daily jobs.

Attached is a list of talking points you may wish to consider when developing your Safety Stand Down briefings. Web sites for additional information and ideas include the following: NWCG Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) at <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/index2.htm> , Six Minutes for Safety Program at http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php, the Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR):

<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/topics.html>,
and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) at <http://www.iafc.org/standdown>.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment in this important national safety effort.

Michelle G. Ryerson

Michelle G. Ryerson
Chair, NWCG Safety and Health Working Team



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Suggested Wildland Fire Safety Topics

IAFC Safety Stand Down

June 22-28, 2008

Moment of silence for Line of Duty Deaths

Health & Wellness

- Review the FireFit Program: <http://www.nifc.gov/FireFit/index.htm>.
- Review Work/Rest, and assignment length guidelines: <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/WR-LOStandards2004.pdf>
- Review Health & Wellness resources at: <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=762>
- Review “Fatigue Awareness” PPT at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/training/fatigue/fatigue.pdf>
- Review agency Employee Assistance Plan (EAP), Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), and other related programs.
- Review your local unit Health & Wellness program and update or validate as necessary.

Vehicle Safety

- Review Incident Operation Driving standards for driver limitations: <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/DrivingStandards2004.pdf>
- Review ATV/UTV safety protocol for your local unit.
- Review vehicle safety at: <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=413>
- Address **MANDATORY** seat belt use, driving with headlights “on”.
- Review roadside response protocols for engines and response vehicles.
- Ensure employees have proper training, and is **documented**, e.g., defensive driving, ATV.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Check your fire shelters, for more information: http://www.nifc.gov/safety/fire_shelter.htm
- Emphasize the proper use of eye & hearing protection.
- Check all personal PPE for defects, and repair or replace if necessary.

Operational Leadership

- Review Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), pages v – xi, for leadership principles.
- Visit “Leadership Development Program” at: <http://www.fireleadership.gov/links.html>

Critical Incident Procedures

- Review and update your personal emergency notification information for accidents.
- Review and update “Critical Incident Management” procedures guide at local unit.

Fire Line Safety

- Review the “Risk Management Process” for hazard assessment, on page 1 of the IRPG.
- Review the 2007 NWCG SAFETYGRAM (www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt).
- Use the “Lessons Learned Center” for topics, reviews, case studies, and AAR’s <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Library.aspx>
- Review the SAFENET process for reporting unsafe situations: <http://safenet.nifc.gov/>