



# Protection Contract Services Unit

## 2015 IFCA Newsletter

March 2015

### From the Unit Coordinator

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed some down time with family and friends over the winter holidays. It is hard to believe that March is already upon us! Our Unit is back to full capacity and preparing for another active fire season.

Plans are underway for the second annual round of Contractor/CRWB workshops. Last year's workshops were attended by over two-hundred contract personnel and proved to be very successful! The agenda this year will include some refresher items as well as several new topics. Three workshops are planned for the region; Salem, Grants Pass, and a Bend location has been added to accommodate travel for those in the central/eastern portions of the region. These workshops are not mandatory, just an opportunity to collaborate and prepare for the 2015 fire season. Agenda and registration information will be forthcoming. We hope to see you all at one of the workshops!

*Cindy Beck*

### New PCSU Compliance Specialist

We are happy to announce that Bob Arnsmeier has accepted the position of Compliance Specialist in the PCSU. Bob began this role on January 20th and has been busy getting up-to-speed on his new job duties. For the past three years, Bob has worked at our Salem Coordination Center as Lead Dispatcher and Support Specialist where many of you spoke with him. Bob has held previous careers with Marion County as Weighmaster and Deputy Sheriff. In addition, Bob is an eight year veteran of the US Armed Forces. Bob shares our commitment to continuous improvement and building partnerships with our contractors.

### WCFT Notifications, Cancellations and Results - Reminder!

PCSU must receive at least 7 days notice in writing of any scheduled pack tests. This is to facilitate the coordination of government monitoring. Waivers of the 7-day notification may be granted for emergency reasons only, not convenience. In addition, contractors must provide the PCSU with completion rosters within 5 days of pack test administration. In the event a pack test must be cancelled, notice must be provided to PCSU in writing within 2 working days prior to or immediately following the date and time of the scheduled test. Please refer to IFCA B 3.3 for complete agreement language on WCFT compliance.

## Protection from Fire Program

### STAFF

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### HOURS AND FAX

Monday—Friday  
0730-1600

Fax Number  
503.945.7494

### WCFT Administration

Contractors must ensure that all crew members pass the WCFT at the ARDUOUS level each calendar year—3 miles in 45 minutes carrying a 45 lb pack.

Please refer to the following links for more information on training for and administration of the WCFT. Please ensure you are compliant with NWCG standards in administration of the WCFT.

### [Test Administration Safety Reminders](#)

[NWCG PMS304](#)

[NWCG PMS307](#)

### DDL Monitoring

Dispatch location compliance reviews will be conducted in May/June. Bob will contact you this spring to schedule an appointment for your review. In order to cover all locations within the established time period, we are asking for your assistance and flexibility in scheduling.

One of our Unit's goals is to maintain good communication with our contractors, therefore company visits and record inspections are encouraged in conjunction with the DDL reviews.

### 2015 Established LSA Dates

Clackamas Community College: 4/12, 5/09, 6/13

Rogue River Community College: 4/11, 5/30

Treasure Valley Community College: no info yet

Please contact the colleges directly to register.

Contact information can be found on our web page at :

<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/ops/iaca.aspx>.

### Online Training Update

We received information that PNWCG has issued a letter to all MOU providers confirming its support of the national policy on accepting online training. Please check with your Firefighting Contractor Association for additional information on this topic.

### Trainees on Assignments

There are requests to increase the ability to switch out trainees on fire assignments from the current IFCA specification allowing replacement of trainees only after a 14-day assignment. This topic will be brought forward to the PNWCG Operations Committee for review and recommendation. Contractors will be notified of any developments.

### Dispatch Priority Document

ODF and federal government staff have collaboratively developed a guidance document for the IFCA Best Value dispatching process for the Pacific Northwest Region. The document helps to provide guidance on the Best Value dispatching process for federal, WDNR and ODF incidents. It is not intended to serve as an amendment to the existing agreement nor does it change the intent. A final draft has been forwarded to PNWCG for incorporation into the 2015 Northwest Mobilization Guide.

### MOU Training Providers

The Approved MOU Training Provider list has been updated and can be found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/FIRE/OPS/contractor%20associations.pdf>.

Note that an additional firefighting contractor association has been added to the list:

Northwest Contract Fire Association, located in LaGrande.

### Last But Not Least!

ODF, its cooperating agencies, and the many communities across the Pacific Northwest thank you for your continued partnership and diligent efforts to maintain the high standards and quick response times that have contributed to the nationwide recognition of our region's wildfire fighting capabilities.

**We look forward to working with you in 2015!**

