



Protection Contract Services Unit

2015 IFCA Newsletter

October 2015

Protection from Fire Program

From the Unit Coordinator

Greetings from the PCSU! We hope this newsletter finds you all well and getting some much needed rest after another very busy fire season. The unit is transitioning into fall season activities, including After Action Reviews, IFCA renewals, training plans, and numerous other activities. We would like to thank each company's administration and crew members for the hard work and dedication over the 2015 fire season. We would also like to express our appreciation for those that were able to status emergency crews when all other available crews were being utilized. Your skilled resources are invaluable to the firefighting program.

Cindy Beck

New Protection Division Leadership

Ron Graham has been selected to fill the Division's Deputy Chief position recently vacated by Doug Grafe's promotion to Division Chief. Ron began his fire career at the Michigan Dept of Natural Resources, he has served as District Fire Management Officer for New Mexico State Forestry, Fire Manager for the Wyoming State Forestry Division, and is currently the Chair of the Western State Fire Managers Committee. Ron understands the challenges of providing fire protection in the western states and has accumulated a broad fire management perspective over his career. We are excited to have Ron on board and look forward to working with him to support ODF's mission.

2015 Season Highlights

Now that fire activity has wound down around the state, the PCSU would like to reflect on some of the great collaboration that has taken place over the 2015 Fire Season. Since June 1st, there have been a total of 3404 fires reported in the NW Geographic Region, affecting approximately 1,571,218 acres. During peak activity, over 10,900 firefighters and support personnel were actively working on fires in the region. IFCA crews were deployed to 165 incidents in the states of AK, OR, WA, CA, and ID, for an estimated 8,500 plus crew days. Due to resource shortages, IFCA contractors were able to pull together seven additional 20 person emergency crews in August.

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Highlights contd.

Many IFCA crews were extended beyond their normal 14-day assignments, working through 21 and even 28 day assignments with minimal down time.

On behalf of ODF, its partnering agencies and the residents of the Northwest states, we applaud and thank you for your diligent efforts and willingness to persevere during the third consecutive catastrophic fire season in the region's history.

A Few Reminders

ROSS Statusing Upon Demobilization:

Once your crew has been demobilized from an incident and arrives back at the DDL, please remember to check your crew's status in ROSS to verify the status lists 'Returned from Assignment'. If your crew is still listed 'At Incident', please make contact with the incident or your host dispatch and ask them to update correctly. We are communicating this with government personnel as well, but need your help to fill the 'gaps'.

Yellow Dot to Red Dot Advancement Clarification:

After completion of the first season and 15 operational periods, a firefighter can advance from "Yellow Dot" to "Red Dot." If they have not met the 15 operational periods within their first season, a firefighter can advance to Red Dot once they have reached the 15 operational periods in subsequent years. (Refer to IFCA B 1.0, B 3.2.1.3).

Payment Issues:

If you are having issues with payments, please follow IFCA specification C 8.0, which provides direct contacts for invoicing and payment compensation. Once you have made this contact and if you still have unresolved issues, the PCSU is available for assistance.

Fire Shelters and Bags:

There were numerous issues with non-compliant fire shelters/bags this season. Please ensure that your fire shelters comply with IFCA Specification F 3.1.7. .

For further clarification on evaluating the condition of fire shelters, please refer to the *Fire Shelter Inspection Guide and Rebag Direction* document located at:



<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf11512301/pdf11512301dpi72.pdf>

For additional information contact the Missoula Technology and Development Center at 406-329-3978.

2013 IFCA 2016 Renewal

The 2016 Extension documents have been mailed to all current IFCA contractors. The deadline for submission of the original signed Award Summary Sheets is October 14th. The extension/renewal is only available for currently awarded IFCA contractors and crews.

2016 Public Contractor Meetings

In lieu of annual Contractor/CRWB workshops in 2016, the PCSU will be joining the USFS Fire and Aviation Contracting Team and Contract Operations as they travel to different areas of the state. The public meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss issues or recommendations that affect the fire contracting community. The tentative timeframe will be February 2016.

Have a Safe and Happy Autumn!

....Cindy, Bea & Bob

