

R5 PREVENTION NOTES

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

FREQUENCY

Thanks for your feedback regarding the newsletter. You will note that file sizes will now be smaller, making these easier to open. Also, this newsletter is not always going to make it to you weekly, but rather on an as-needed / as-able basis.

There have been several replies to add people to this list. Keep us posted on additions and please have interested prevention personnel add their names to the distribution (email cfabbro@fs.fed.us).

FIRE WHEEL

By now you may have heard that the National Fire Prevention Teams working on the region's three southernmost forests have implemented a new public information tool. The Fire Danger Level indicator will no longer reflect, well, Fire Danger Levels. Instead it will reflect Fire Use Restrictions. There is a companion guide to indicate which activities are allowed at which level. The "Critical" level indicates forest closure. The signs are still called Fire Danger Levels but will not change daily. Instead, they will only increase during fire season. Their appearance will not change; when a forest reaches "critical" the wheel is covered with a forest closure sign.



Folks, particularly on other forests, may have concerns about the region not having uniformity. Team Leader Bud Rotroff explains, "We're giving an adjective description to the closure process. Several years of historic drought conditions have made it necessary in some southern forests." (See attachment #7 "Fire Use Rest" for more info)

Look for this lively topic at November's R5 meeting.



Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, 2004. From smokeybearballoon.com

STURGIS, SD HARLEY HEAVEN, AUGUST 2004

How do you soften up the baddest bikers at the peak of their season? Feed 'em? That's 400,000 mouths. Instead, the Friends of Smokey Bear Balloon brought their program to the Black Hills NF. The group took two flights over the area in their Smokey hot air balloon and brought out the real Smokey with their cold air balloon (pictured) for photo opps. Of course, the group took that opportunity to share the Prevention Team's "Don't Burn the Rally" campaign.



PROPS FOR PREV PROPAGANDA

Available to you direct! (Almost) free loaner displays from BLM (a couple of the many choices are above). You pay the round-trip shipping, between \$35 (tabletop) and \$70 (7-foot free-standing floor model). Click the link below for more choices and shipping. Act now before somebody else scratches them up!

<http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/Displays/index.htm>

(Must be on Government Web server to make link)

Psst...!

Parts of some So Cal forests are going into full or partial closure in the upcoming weeks. Coming soon to a computer near you...Resource Orders for



patrols. Had a tedious fire season on your unit? Are you sick of the meat-n-taters fare at your local greasy spoon? Come to tinder-dry So Cal for the most eclectic severity

assignment ever! (Sorry, no H-pay for driving freeways in rush hour.)

The extra patrols greatly help on-forest staff with education and compliance. ¿Habla español? Es muy bueno, pero no es completamente necesario.



R5 FIRE RESTRICTIONS INFO ON THE WEB

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/information/index.html>

FIRE PREVENTION TIP #24

Thanks to Dean Burnham

Now is the time to address the problems that you might encounter with the hunting public. Consider creating a fact sheet for the hunters.

- Have the fact sheet at the front desk, and maybe leave fact sheets at sports stores or at C-stores.
- Remind hunters how to put out the warming/camp fires and to clean up their hunting camp (their Mom won't be there to pick up after them!)
- Point out the problems with parking vehicles on dry vegetation.
- Point out the number of fires caused by hunting public and cost to put the fires out for the previous year.
- Point out the rain/snow can be deceiving on how wet it really is.
- Include any other information that is relevant for your area.

Be safe out there!

CA-NV-HI FOREST FIRE COUNCIL MEETING

October 20-21. More information @ www.cnhfire.org

As our agencies are challenged with new missions for the wildland fire community, the conference focuses on new ways of turning those challenges into successes. Speakers plan to cover the evolution of Historic Wildlands, factors in the 2003 siege in Southern California, discussions on the 2004 air resource situation, the effects of Pine Beetle in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains, Panel Discussions on Community Planning. These are but a few of the topics to be addressed. The scheduled Keynote speaker is Senator Bill Campbell, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the 2003 California Firestorms.

Conference Location is the Peppermill Resort Hotel in Reno, Nevada. Rooms are at the prevailing Government Per Diem Rate of \$55.00. Registration flyer attached.

MAILBOX

Mary Blair off the LP writes, "I have been working with an enterprise team on our favorite subject—'Marketing.' We are in need of a selection of pictures of prevention activities, action shots, etc. I know I have collected and requested pictures before but just don't have what is needed. Anyone else have digital pictures you can send me? Thanks!"

Michael Lohrey writes, "In perusing the 2004 Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS #461, NFES #1077) I picked up an omission on page 16 for Incident Complexity Analysis (Type 3, 4, 5). Missing is (the text): 'If you have checked "Yes" on 3 to 5 of the analysis boxes, consider requesting the next level of incident management support'—as it reads in the Red Book. Without that, the complexity analysis is just an academic exercise that doesn't lead to any conclusions. Thanks, ML."

Linda Steinberg off the Angeles writes, "...the service team will not send Margie (Behm, ANF Prevention Officer's) name for leave donation region wide; I still haven't gotten a clear answer why (the guidelines say 'any' federal employee can donate to another federal employee...it doesn't say within boundaries or province). As I'm not connected to the fire family as each of you are, I'm asking if you can reach out to the folks who know Margie. She is expected to be out on medical leave for the rest of the year and needs leave donations. With my heartfelt thanks!"

CAREER LADDER CONCERNS

On many minds is OPM's decision to eliminate two-grade promotion intervals. Prevention is not the only Fire career affected. This issue has been brought up to the R5 Partnership Council. Notes are attached.

MILESTONES

This section marks staff changes of regional interest. Please forward your colleagues' news for inclusion.

George Geer from the LA River Ranger District of the Angeles NF has accepted a Special Uses position on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers RD. Although he doesn't leave the Angeles, he leaves Prevention after 28 seasons. He was Deputy Branch Director for the CA Interagency Committee for Smokey's 50th in DC, led Smokey's effort at So Cal Special Olympics for 25 years and has dropped the number of fires on his patrol unit from "War Zone" to a handful in the past decades. He would be at campgrounds at the crack of dawn, raking around your tent if you left a mess and giving you a stern message if your campfire was smoldering. His feet may not pound the Angeles Front Country trails (50-75 miles a week!), but his brainpower is still ours to tap into.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Have something to share? Do we need to get your word out there? Success stories, job opportunities, events, trainings, etc? Send them to cfabbro@fs.fed.us and we'll see to it. Let's hear from all you Forests.

SAVE THE DATE

CA-NV-HI For. Fire Council Conf, Reno, 20-21 Oct
Prevention Academy, Sacramento, 14-25 Mar 2005

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2005 Prevention Academy Flyer (Sacramento)
2. Forest Fire Council Meeting Registration (Reno)
3. TNF Prevention Outreach
4. Mt. Shasta DFMO Opening
5. Hayfork DFMO Opening
6. R5 Partnership Council Meeting Notes
7. Fire Use Restrictions (Southern Forests)
8. Fire Safe Scorecard