

United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

April 27, 2006

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EMS Transmission 04/27/06  
Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2006-025  
Expires: 09/30/07

To: All Field Offices

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: NWCG Recommendation on Over-the-Counter Vitamin and Mineral  
Supplementation for Wildland Firefighters

**Program Area:** Fire Management

**Purpose:** Provide policy for the procurement and dispensing of Over-the-Counter (OTC) vitamin and mineral supplements.

**Policy Action:** In support of interagency operations, the Bureau will accept the attached National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) memorandum on the procurement and dispensing of OTC vitamin and mineral supplements as policy.

**Timeframe:** Effective immediately.

**Budget Impact:** None.

**Background:** It has become common practice for the Medical Unit to purchase and issue multivitamins and/or vitamin C and other OTC mineral supplements on incidents.

In 2004, the question was raised by several groups as to whether we should procure OTC vitamin and mineral supplements and what, if any, the liability would be if we continue to administer them through the Medical Unit. The Incident Business Practices Working Team (IBPWT) felt a recommendation was needed from the Safety and Health Working Team (S&HWT) who referred the question to their Emergency Medical Support Group (EMSG). The recommendation from the EMSG was based on their review of ongoing nutritional work and that of the scientific community as noted in the attachment.

**Manual/Handbook Section Affected:** Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, Chapter 20, Acquisition.

**Contact:** Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to, the primary contact, Hallie Locklear, Incident Business Lead at 208-387-5166 or, secondary contact, Michelle Ryerson, OF&A Safety Manager at 208-387-5175.

Signed by:  
Timothy M. Murphy  
Acting Director

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

1 Attachment

[NWCG Memorandum – Vitamin and Mineral Supplementation for Wildland Firefighters](#)  
(4 pp)

Distribution:

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