TO:
FROM: National Wildfire Coordinating Group
REPLY TO: NWCG@nifc.gov
DATE: 06/14/2006
SUBJECT: SAFETY ADVISORY: IAFC Safety Stand Down

On June 21, 2006, thousands of fire departments across the United States and Canada will "stand down" for firefighter safety. The NWCG is joining with the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and other groups in supporting this call for safety. Although the NWCG understands that the responsibilities of its member agencies may not allow for full participation in the initiative, we would still like to support our structural fire partners.

Please distribute the attached NWCG memo throughout your agency, and encourage your firefighters to utilize the information it contains to heighten awareness about next week's safety stand down.

NWCG_Memorandum_June21SafetyStandDown_2006_06_06.pdf
Memorandum

To: NWCG Members
From: NWCG Chair
Date: June 6, 2006
Subject: Firefighter Safety Stand Down

On June 21, 2006, thousands of fire departments across the nation and Canada will “stand down” for firefighter safety. The NWCG is joining with the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and other groups in supporting this call for safety. I urge you to make a special effort to focus on safety that day as well. Because the responsibilities of NWCG Members are complex and far reaching, your agency may not be able to “stand down” as are some firefighting agencies.

However, through a variety of methods, I encourage you to heighten your agency’s safety awareness that day through a tailgate safety session or similar brief program. This year, the focus is on emergency vehicle operations – specifically, seatbelt usage and safe driving through intersections.

The message is simple and direct: Wear your seatbelt and stop at intersections.

Attached are a few additional discussion topics you may wish to consider for tailgate safety sessions or similar programs on June 21st. You may also wish to visit the following websites for additional information and ideas. NWCG Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) at http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/index2.htm or the Six Minutes for Safety Program at http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php or the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) at www.iafc.org/standdown.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this important national safety effort.

Attachment A

cc: WT Chairs
    GACG Chairs
June 21, 2006
Suggested Wildland Safety Topics

Moment of silence for Line of Duty Deaths

- Review and explain purpose at a Tailgate Safety Session
- Review the Watch Out Situations, Fire Orders, Risk Management Process, or LCES, etc.
- Pass out copies on the Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS#461/NFES#1077)
- Review the 2005 NWCG SAFETYGRAM (www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt)

All other agency activities (forest health, unit management, public education, etc.) should also focus on safety and health

Fire Line Safety
Review agency Standard Operating Procedures and Fire Manuals
- Review individual knowledge of communication equipment and procedures
- Review adequacy of current communication system as well as individual units

Personal Protective Equipment
Review fire suppression personal protective equipment
- Check all PPE, for obvious defects, cleaning and maintenance needs.
- Red-tag all equipment with defects and remove from service.
- Emphasize use of eye and hearing protection

Apparatus and Equipment Check
Check all fire suppression equipment and other equipment stowed on transports and other vehicles including all aircraft.
- Address MANDATORY seat belt use, driving with headlights “on” and use of emergency lights
- Review roadside response protocols for engines and response vehicles
- Conduct mandatory buddy inspections of all vehicles

Injury and infectious Disease Safety
Review agency SOPs and protocols
- Address proper PPE
- Address proper hand washing and other universal protocols

Training
Review minimum training requirements (fire operations, driving, etc.)
Check and ensure employees have received proper vehicle training and that it is documented, e.g. defensive driving, CDL, EOVC, ATV training
Address wellness fitness training including how to stay fit year round

Behavioral Health
Review and address agency’s EAPs, CISM, and other related programs.

Go to 6 Minutes for Safety at www.nifc.gov/sixminutes or the Safety Stand Down Web site at www.iafc.org/standdown to select a different safety topic.