



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov

**DATE :** 06/15/2007

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY ADVISORY : Firefighter Safety Stand Down

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During the week of June 17-23, fire departments and firefighters across the country will “stand down” for firefighter safety. For the third consecutive year the NWCG is joining with the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and other groups in supporting this call for safety.

This year’s stand down, titled “Ready to Respond,” has been expanded from one day to one week to allow participating agencies maximum flexibility for participating in the exercise .

The NWCG Safety and Health Working Team urges you to take a moment of silence for line of duty deaths and make a special effort to focus on safety for one day during this week . Heighten your agency’s safety awareness that day by providing tailgate safety sessions or similar brief programs that are unique and above and beyond your usual daily safety briefings.

Attached is a short list of talking points you may wish to consider when developing your Safety Stand Down briefings. You may also wish to visit the following web sites 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](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php) or the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) at <http://www.iafc.org/standdown>.

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

/s/ Michelle Ryerson  
Chair, NWCG Safety and Health Working Team



SafetyAdvisory\_StandDown\_Attachment.doc

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## **Suggested Wildland Fire Safety Topics**

### **June 17-23, 2007 National Firefighter Safety Stand Down**

Moment of silence for Line of Duty Deaths

#### **Fire Line Safety**

- Review and explain purpose at a Tailgate Safety Session.
- Review the Watch Out Situations, Fire Orders, Risk Management Process, or LCES, etc.
- Pass out and discuss the Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS#461 / NFES#1077).
- Review the 2006 NWCG SAFETYGRAM ([www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt](http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt)).
- Crew or team members read the same publication (book, accident report, etc.) and discuss during Stand Down.

#### **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**

- 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.
- Address proper PPE.

#### **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.

#### **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.
- Address attitudes relating to safety, both positive and negative. This might include judgment, aggression, experience, physical conditioning, etc.
- Review crew cohesion, culture and leadership.