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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 08/16/2001

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Message from the Federal Fire Directors

As the 2001 fire season continues to build there have already been a number of shelter deployments by personnel working in the urban interface. We, as Fire Directors, are concerned that fire fighters may be taking unwarranted risks in their efforts to protect homes and property. We, therefore, want to reinforce our commitment to safety and stress to all firefighters that firefighter and public safety is the number one priority in suppression operations.

·Firefighter and public safety is ALWAYS the first priority. There is no structure or piece of ground that makes this worth compromising.

·Always insure LCES is implemented.

·Maintain situational awareness and recognize changes in fire behavior that may indicate the need to modify strategy or tactics.

·Always maintain positive communication, and make certain all commands are understood by everyone.

Our first responsibility as firefighters is to mitigate the risks associated with all suppression actions, regardless of the resources at risk. Keep these basic rules in mind on every fire action this season.
