



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

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Date: August 8, 2002

Route To:

Subject: Safety Alert - Work/Rest and Duty Limitation Policy

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Job Corps,
and WO Staff

Two safety alerts, dated June 27, 2002, were previously issued concerning work-rest policy. Those safety alerts arose from the preliminary findings on a motor vehicle rollover accident investigation that resulted in five fatalities. We continue to see evidence that both work-rest and duty limitation policy is still being misunderstood, misapplied, or disregarded.

Given the severity and duration of this year's fire season, it is essential that you take every achievable action to make certain that work-rest and duty limitation policy is followed to the letter to avoid exposure of our personnel to unnecessary risks. This includes not only accounting for the time that personnel are on an incident, but also the work time associated with traveling to and from incidents.

Please ensure the widest dissemination of the enclosed safety alert and the previously issued alerts referenced above. These safety alerts should be posted on official bulletin boards and discussed with Incident Commanders. Also, use an internal control mechanism, such as randomly reviewing time and attendance sheets, to monitor the adherence to work-rest and duty limitation policy for incidents within your unit. Take corrective action in any situation where work-rest and duty limitation policy is being compromised.

For additional information, contact Ronald F. Wilson, Safety and Occupational Health Manager at (703) 605-0885 or by e-mail: rfwilson01.

/s/John G. Lopez for
THOMAS J. MILLS
Deputy Chief for Business Operations

Enclosure

cc:
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National Association of State Foresters

