



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Alaska State Office
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504
www.blm.gov/alaska

In Reply Refer To:
9200 (LLAK9F000) P

APR 12 2017

Instruction Memorandum No. AK-2017-007
Expires: 9/30/2018

To: Alaska Deputy State Director, Fire and Aviation

From: *for* Alaska State Director *Jack A. Murphy*

Subject: BLM Alaska Remote Structure Protection Policy

Program Area: Alaska Fire Service Fire Management

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to assist the Alaska Fire Service (AFS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry (DOF) in meeting the delegated responsibilities for fire suppression on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) protected lands. This policy reaffirms that the highest priority for the BLM is the protection of human life. Personal property located on BLM-managed lands will only be protected in accordance with this policy. The role of the BLM district offices and field offices is to provide recommendations, information, and guidance to the delegated fire suppression organization concerning resources of value and to assist fire management personnel in developing fire suppression strategies during time of high fire suppression activities. This policy recognizes that the availability of resources may preclude protection of some sites indicated for protection during portions of the fire season. This policy supersedes all previous direction and guidance regarding wildland fire structure protection on BLM-managed land.

The BLM will continue to assess and build the Known Sites Database to assist managers in providing timely and effective pre-suppression planning and suppression decisions.

Policy/Action: This IM and the two attachments clarify and add guidance to the protecting agencies in the decision making process for the protection and prioritization of remote cabins/structures on BLM-managed lands.

Timeframe: This IM is effective upon receipt.

Budget Impact: There is no anticipated budget impact.

Background: AFS and DOF fire management need to make timely and critical decisions in prioritizing resources when fire activity is high and the availability of resources are minimized. The BLM staff have worked diligently to inventory and prioritize these remote structures/cabins, but in the rare event they are not, this IM will assist protection and jurisdictional agency fire managers and jurisdictional agency administrators in making time-sensitive decisions.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None

Coordination: This IM was coordinated between the Alaska Fire Service, Fairbanks District Office, Anchorage District Office, Anchorage Field Office, Glennallen Field Office, Arctic District Office, Central Yukon Field Office, Eastern Interior Field Office, and Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Contact: For more information regarding this IM, please contact Casey Boespflug, Fire Program Analyst, at 907-356-5859.

Signed by:
Ted A. Murphy
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Sandra Christine
Administrative Assistant

2 Attachments

- 1 - BLM Alaska Remote Structure Protection Policy, 3 pp
- 2 - Fire Personnel Building and Cabin Recording Form, 2 pp