

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Safety Advisory

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DATE: 7/23/2005

SUBJECT: Incident Signing – Release of the Incident Sign Installation Guide

AREA OF CONCERN: Any emergency incident near public roads and highways

DISCUSSION: Recently, a very serious accident involving two agency owned crew cab pickup trucks and injuring ten firefighters resulted in part from inadequate highway signing. Reference the 72 hour briefing, Dammeron Wildland Fire Vehicle Accident released 7/23/05 and picture below.

Incident management teams are responsible to manage all signing including those signs posted along any State, Federal or Local road open to the public. Proper signing will significantly increase safety for firefighters, incident support personnel and the public. Specifically, Incident Commanders and Agency Administrators are responsible to post signings along public roads in accordance with *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD)*. This manual is the national standard for signs and traffic control devices for roads. The regulations in 23 CFR 655.603 require that the MUTCD be followed on all Federal, State and local roads open to public travel.

MTDC has recently released the Incident Sign Installation Guide. This is an excellent, easy to follow and read guide designed specifically for incident managers to help them safely sign incidents and be in compliance with State and Federal Laws. Fire Program Managers, Incident Commanders, Logistics Chiefs and Incident Safety Officers should all have a copy of this guide and use it as standard component of incident management. Also, Fire Program Managers should pre-order a cache of the signs shown in this guide in sufficient quantities to be readily available for locally managed incidents.

The guide is available for downloading at: http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/php/library_card.php?p_num=0551%202814

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Questions concerning this guide or obtaining a paper copy by mail may be directed to:

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