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Date: October 1, 2010

Route To:

Subject: National Fire Engine Standardization Update

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director

The Senior Fire Leadership Group's chartered Fire Vehicle Standardization Committee (FVSC) continues to work through the implementation of national engine standards. Previous correspondence noted that the FVSC was developing a process for units substantiating a need for specific and minor deviation from national standards.

The enclosed deviation request form has been developed and tested through the FVSC over the past months. This form will be available via the Fire and Aviation (FAM) web site:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/equipment/index.html>.

The formal process requires the regional fire equipment committee to submit a request through the Regional Fire Director and Regional Fleet Manager, with the approval by the Deputy Regional Forester prior to submission to the FVSC.

The request will be evaluated by the FVSC or other subject matter expert(s) who will deliver either 1) a recommendation for approval or 2) why the request should not be approved. Evaluations of requests will be documented on an evaluation form. The evaluation will be submitted to the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry (S&PF) for final approval or denial of the request; the Deputy Chief may delegate this authority.

The intent of the formal deviation process is to ensure the appropriate level of support is associated with the request from both fire and fleet management. Additionally, it is important to ensure the national standards are enforced while also meeting the needs of the Agency. One more benefit of this process is the capture of specification criteria that could be implemented agency-wide to benefit all regions. The FVSC evaluation portion of the process is critical to ensure the deviation will not unintentionally create other problems in the development of the apparatus or potential training and safety concerns.

As FAM continues to develop the national standards for the remaining fire vehicles remember that the standards currently published MUST be used for any current vehicle purchases. Communication with the fleet manager when identifying replacement needs is critical to facilitate implementation of the national standard but also because of the levels of investment. The Washington Office (WO) recognizes there are some localized funding gaps during the transition from current vehicle investment to national standards. Work is being done to determine the best approach to deal with this issue.

The FVSC is working to submit standards for the remaining fire vehicles to national fire leadership by the 2010 calendar year end. To meet this goal additional information may be requested from the field. The level of detail will be determined as the FVSC works through each vehicle category.



Please contact the committee chair, Tory Henderson, FAM Fire Equipment Branch Chief, at (208) 387-5348 or thenderson@fs.fed.us with any questions.

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Enclosure

cc: Rebecca A Hutchins, Tory Henderson, pdl wo spf fam regional fire directors, pdl RSA Fleet Managers