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Date June 22, 1984

To Distribution

From P. A. Wright

Subject GRASS FIRE SEASON

Ref: Letter, R. E. Gerton, DOE-RL to Director, PNL, dated May 30, 1984, same subject as above.

The attached letter describes the suspension of approval for controlling burning on Hanford range land and describes some hazards and recommended actions for operating vehicles off-road during the grass fire season. As in previous years, Battelle staff members are also asked to observe the guidelines given below:

1. In general, the use of vehicles with catalytic converters must be limited to paved or fully graveled roads. The use of these types of vehicles on unimproved roads with grass median strips should be reviewed by the cognizant line manager.

   If a vehicle equipped with a catalytic converter is pulled off the road, care must be taken to park in cleared areas to prevent a fire from starting under a parked vehicle.

2. Vehicles with standard exhaust (no catalytic converter) may continue to be used off-road, when there is a real need. Again, care should be taken to prevent starting a fire from grass wrapping around the drive shaft or from grass coming in contact with the hot exhaust. Starting with the effective date of this memo, the following additional equipment is recommended for all vehicles that are used off-road:

   - Radio communication that will allow contact with Hanford Patrol in an emergency.
   - Two fully charged, 10-pound ABC fire extinguishers.
   - At least one shovel.
   - One pair of wire cutters.

Those departments which frequently use off-road work areas where there may be a fire potential should consider having the access road to those sites bladed to remove the grass center strips.

- The drivers and passengers, if any, should be constantly alert and checking to the rear of the vehicle for fire.

If a fire is started while operating a vehicle, the driver should immediately make radio contact with Patrol and summon assistance. Then the situation should be evaluated to determine whether the fire can be extinguished, or if it is more prudent to leave. As always, the fire department should be contacted regarding any fire, even it if is succcessfully extinguished.

/cks

Attachment

RECEIVED
JUL 05 1984
P.E. BRAMSON