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## Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

Date: June 22, 2007

### Memorandum

To: Firefighters in the Northwest

From: Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) Chair, Sue Husari

Subject: Leadership in the 2007 Fire Season

The challenges of another fire season are upon us. Our successful response to these challenges will hinge on our ability to work together and support one another. The focus of this letter is mutual respect for one another. It has recently come to our attention that there was an increase in the number of “mutual respect” related issues in the Northwest during the last fire season. This was confirmed through an analysis of data gathered by Human Resource Specialists. Our contract firefighter associations have indicated that renewed attention in this area would be appreciated. Resolution of mutual respect issues requires an emphasis across the Northwest and the rest of the country.

The four values of good leadership are our sense of duty, our sense of integrity, mutual respect for one another, and attention to safety. These leadership values must guide our interactions with one another. Whether we are incident commanders or squad bosses, hotshot crews or contract crews, ground forces or aviators, unit leaders on teams or leaders on our field units, we are all professional firefighters. All of us have a role in helping one another with the task at hand. None of us can do the job of wildland firefighting without the help of the others. The expectation from the PNWCG Steering Committee is that all members of the wildland fire community will be treated with respect.

We learn values at a young age. Keeping them at the forefront of our thoughts requires vigilance on the part of each of us. Those in fire leadership positions should take advantage of opportunities such as guard school, preparedness reviews, briefings or other interactions with firefighters as the season unfolds to reinforce all four of the leadership values. It is vital that all of our firefighters work in an environment of mutual respect for each other to help us assure that we have a safe and successful year.

*Susan J. Husari*

Sue Husari  
Chair, PNWCG