MISSION SUPPORT ALLIANCE
HANFORD FIRE MARSHAL

MO292/600 Area
P.O. Box 650
Richland, Washington 99352
(509)373-4022
FAX (509)373-5846
MSIN: S3-97

FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

DATE: April 17, 2013

TO: HANFORD CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This bulletin is issued to communicate the requirements for off-road vehicle travel and activities at all times by providing specific criteria that must be met based on the fire danger level and in conjunction with a "red flag warning" and/or other conditions when applicable.

DEFINITIONS

OFF-ROAD – Any natural terrain surface or any road surface including dirt, gravel, or pavement that is not being maintained in a way that prevents the underside of the vehicle from coming in contact with natural vegetation.

RED FLAG WARNING – A term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to weather that may result in extreme fire hazard conditions. A Red-Flag Warning is issued when the fire-weather forecaster has a high degree of confidence that Red Flag criteria will exist within 24 hours after the warning is issued. Red Flag criteria can occur whenever the National Fire Danger Rating is high, very high, or extreme. Meteorological conditions that may contribute to a Red Flag Warning are the following:

- High winds
- Low humidity
- High temperatures
- Lightning potential.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Project Management

Project management shall be responsible for notifying and obtaining concurrence from the Hanford Fire Department's on-duty Battalion Chief (373-3856) before any activity involving off-road vehicle travel when the fire danger level is "very high" or above, or if a Fire Marshal Permit has been obtained for any deviations to the requirements of this Advisory Bulletin for emergency or critical work.

Hanford Fire Department/Fire Marshal

The Hanford Fire Department, with support from the Fire Marshal's Office, shall develop the requirements for off-road travel that will include vehicle requirements, communication requirements, fire prevention measures, notification requirements and concurrence requirements (refer to attached table).

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This Fire Marshal Advisory Bulletin contributes to the implementation of ISMS Core Function 2 "Identify and Analyze the Hazards", Core Function 3 "Develop and Implement Hazard and Environmental Controls", and Guiding Principle 1, "Line Management Responsibility for Safety and Environmental Requirements."

Please call if you have questions regarding these actions or other fire and life safety issues.

R. J. Kobelski

R. J. Kobelski, Hanford Fire Marshal
Hanford Fire Department

cc: file

Attachment

Off-Road Vehicle Activities

Based on Hanford Fire Danger Levels

These requirements are strictly for off-road travel and are in addition to considerations for any work that is being planned in the field for which the off-road travel is required. Based on the planned work, additional requirements (permits, etc.) may also be required.

Fire Danger Level	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH *1	VERY HIGH *1	EXTREME
Specific precautions and requirements	No restrictions but standard Off-Road Equipment (see requirements noted below) must be carried.	Standard Off-Road Equipment plus: - No parking or idling over or on standing vegetation	All precautions for MODERATE plus: - HFD Battalion Chief notification (373-3856) of specific work location if a Fire Marshal Permit is required - Vehicle exhaust system modification (no exhaust components below the vehicle body) or pre-treatment of potentially ignitable vegetation	All precautions for HIGH plus: - HFD Battalion Chief notification (373-3856) of specific location of activities - Access allowed only between the hours of 10 pm – 10 am - Additional water fire extinguisher - A continuous fire watch of the travelled area performed for at least 30 minutes after the end of travel	**CLOSED**

*1 – During HIGH or VERY HIGH fire danger conditions when authorized by the on-duty Battalion Chief (373-3856), diesel vehicles manufactured in 2006 or before may be allowed off-road without the pre-treatment of potential fuels such as natural vegetation. Each case shall be evaluated and other considerations and precautions taken as directed. Most diesel powered vehicles produced in 2007 and later are equipped with catalytic converters and pose the same fire danger as gasoline powered vehicles.

Closure of All Off-Road Activities

Off-road vehicle activities will not be allowed if:

- the Hanford area is under a "Red-Flag Warning" condition
- if winds speeds are expected to exceed 15 MPH and the Fire Danger Level is HIGH or above
- the relative humidity is 15% or less when the Fire Danger Level is HIGH or above
- the Site is in the EXTREME Fire Danger Level

Standard Off-Road Equipment

In all cases of off-road travel, a hand shovel, a fire extinguisher with a minimum 2A:10B:C rating (Note: an additional 2 ½ gallon pressurized water fire extinguisher, or approved equal, is required if traveling off-road during VERY HIGH Danger Levels), and communications (radio or cell phone) must always be provided in each vehicle. Personnel must immediately report any fires to the HFD (373-0911 for cell phones) and maintain clear and unobstructed egress from the work location. Any vehicle going "off-road" should be in good working order with a properly functioning exhaust system. A periodic inspection of the undercarriage must also be conducted to ensure there is no vegetation caught under the vehicle that could ignite from the exhaust system, catalytic converter, or rotating components.

Pre-Treatment of Potential Fuels

The pre-treatment of potential fuels involves the removal of the vegetation along the path of travel such that vegetation cannot come in contact with the undercarriage of the vehicles and/or having a water truck wet down the area immediately before travel into and out of the area.

Variance to Off-Road Requirements

Possible deviations or variances to the requirements of this Advisory Bulletin for emergency or critical work must be coordinated on a case-by-case basis. Through coordination with the assigned facility/project Fire Protection Engineer, management of the involved facility or project, and with concurrence of the HFD Battalion Chief, a Fire Marshal Permit documenting limitations and any additional compensatory measures, may be issued on a case-by-case basis for specific variances to the off-road requirements listed above.