

STATE AGENCY CREWS

7763

(No. 21 March 1999)

CDC TYPE II FIRE CREWS

7763.1

(No. 21 March 1999)

In the past, CAL FIRE utilized inmates assigned to Department of Corrections (CDC) institutions, who had received only 16 hours of pre-fire safety training, to provide staffing for Type II fire crews (formerly called Emergency Firefighter [EFF] crews). Usually these crews were supervised by CAL FIRE Fire Captain-Instructors assigned to the training centers. This was possible due to an available backlog of inmates who had graduated from a CAL FIRE Fire Crew Firefighter training course, but who had not yet been assigned to a conservation camp.

In recent years this backlog has been eliminated due to the opening of new camps and an increase in the number of training hours required to 64 hours. Forestry Training Centers must now maintain a steady output of trained firefighters in order to keep all available fire crew firefighter positions filled. If the training center is shut down for a period of weeks while the trainees and Fire Captains are away on firefighting assignments, the number of fire crew firefighter position vacancies grows quickly.

Another concern is the assignment of partially-trained inmates to a crew of other partially-trained inmates, supervised by a Fire Captain who they have known for only a few days (at most), and assigning that crew to a potentially dangerous wildland fire control assignment. Both CAL FIRE and CDC management have expressed serious safety concerns about this practice.

For these reasons, **CAL FIRE WILL NOT assign individuals to a Type I or II fire crew unless they have successfully completed the official 64-hour CAL FIRE Crew Fire-fighter Minimum Fireline Safety Training course as described in CAL FIRE Handbook 4200.** Individuals who have completed this course should be assigned to a conservation camp as soon as possible to fill Type I fire crew position vacancies.

CDC INCIDENT SUPPORT CREWS

7763.2

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Each spring CDC provides CAL FIRE with a list of inmate community work crews and vehicles that are available to assist in emergency incident support activities. These crews are NOT fire trained, but are available to assist in any incident support activities which are appropriate for custody personnel, such as loading and unloading of supplies, etc. These crews can be ordered with supervision and transportation. Compensation for these crews will follow the same procedures as for CAL FIRE/CDC fire crews. CDC incident support crews can be ordered through the Sacramento ECC.

CCC TYPE II FIRE CREWS

7763.3

(No. 21 March 1999)

Unit Chiefs may choose to arrange for, and train, a Type II fire crew from a CCC Base Center. CAL FIRE region fire control staff evaluates and certifies these crews for Type II fire assignments. **A CAL FIRE Fire Captain must be assigned to the crew prior to fireline assignment.** (See CAL FIRE/CDC Camp Operations Handbook 6400, Chapter 6560 for Type II Fire Crew Captain minimum qualifications.) These crews should **NOT** be used in non-firefighting incident support assignments (see Section 7763.5). CCC Type II fire crews can be ordered through the Sacramento ECC.

CCC INCIDENT SUPPORT CREWS

7763.4

(No. 21 March 1999)

Each spring CCC provides CAL FIRE with a list of crews available for incident support activities. These crews are NOT fire trained but are available for any incident support activities, such as supply, food service, parking control, runners, etc. These crews are especially versatile because they do not require custody supervision and can be split into smaller work groups. These crews come with supervision and transportation. CCC incident support crews can be ordered through the Sacramento ECC.

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