



**Arizona State Forestry Division**  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions**  
**Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico**  
**National Park Service, Intermountain Region**  
**New Mexico State Forestry Division**  
**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2**  
**U. S. Forest Service**



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**Date: May 29, 2009**

**To: Wildland Fire and Aviation Community**

**From: Southwest Coordinating Group**

**Topic: Interest Announcement – Critical Incident Stress Management Training**

The Southwest Geographic Area is currently developing an interagency Critical Incident Stress Management Program for wildland fire. We all hope that serious accidents do not occur, but also need to be prepared to respond in such situations to provide the needed support to the individuals involved. Personnel may experience a critical incident and traumatic stress during the line of duty. The effects of traumatic stress are best prevented and mitigated through the use of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). The use of CISM increases productivity, health, morale, and enjoyment of life. It may decrease post-traumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, workman's compensation claims, fatalities, injuries, and suicide.

A Critical Incident Management Training session is being developed for the week of February 1, 2010 in Tucson, AZ. The class is 40 hours and will be taught by a nationally recognized expert in Critical Incident Stress Management. Travel for most attendees will be Sunday, January 31 and the afternoon of Friday, February 5. There is no tuition for the class as the US Fish and Wildlife Service is covering the costs. Travel, time, and per diem are the responsibility of the sending agency. A block of rooms will be set up in the near future once a location in Tucson is selected.

The target audience for this training is the wildland fire and aviation community so that when CISM is needed, responders are better able to relate to the event and the affected individuals. Attendees will be part of a team who may be called upon when there are CISM needs related to wildland fire. Future classes may be set up in a rotation with other Geographic Areas to increase our CISM capabilities in future years as well. In an effort to assess interest in attendance, please send an e-mail to [kjaycox@fs.fed.us](mailto:kjaycox@fs.fed.us) by **June 30, 2009** so the appropriate facility and logistics can be obtained.

Your participation in this effort will be extremely valuable in making the program a success and the Southwest Coordinating Group encourages those individuals who feel they can help make a difference to apply. An official training announcement/nomination will follow later in 2009 once all the details are finalized.