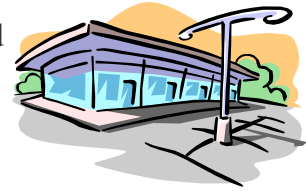


Working With or Around Inmate Fire Crews

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Working with or around inmate firefighters, whether responding to emergencies or providing conservation related work, involves special considerations.

Responsibility to provide for the proper needs of crews enroute to and from an emergency assignment is vested in CAL FIRE. Routes of travel, meals, and rest stops are pre-planned. Correctional staff accompanying crews assist in completion of arrangements. Restaurant stops are pre-planned and meals are sometimes pre-ordered. Fire crews are expected to act professionally, to speak only when spoken to, and to leave the premises clean.



Periodic rest stops are coordinated in conjunction with Correctional staff and planned along familiar routes. Crew members are expected to act professionally at all times and are not to interact with the public. Crews may not abuse public facilities and must leave them clean

CAL FIRE and Correctional staff are jointly responsible for the care, treatment, and custody of fire crews in base camp. Crews are expected to act professionally at all times. Crews are supervised at all times and are not allowed to roam at will. In order to better control the security of crews, crew members are bedded down in sleeping areas separated by gender and cooperating agency. Crew members are not allowed to visit with other crews at the incident and are supervised at all times



Separate shower facilities should be provided at emergency incidents. If separate shower facilities are not available, separate shower times should be scheduled.

Fire crews eat as a unit under the immediate supervision of the fire crew captain or custodial officer.

Crews are not allowed to hoard food. They are to leave their area clean and orderly.

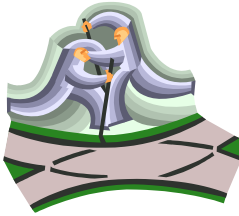


Fire crews are expected to provide an acceptable quantity and quality of work. Crew members will not be allowed to mangle on the fire line. If a crew member refuses to conform to the instructions of staff and affects the production of the crew, the crew member must be dealt with through the progressive disciplinary process.

All crew members have the right to be treated with fairness, maturity, and impartiality and are expected to treat others the same. Personal problems with crew members should be referred to the appropriate CAL FIRE or Correctional staff. Breaks are a privilege and will be given at the supervisor's discretion.



Giving letters to or taking letters from a crew member is a misdemeanor. Relaying a verbal or written message to or from a crew member or crew member's family is prohibited. Giving gifts to or receiving gifts from a crew member is not permitted. Even little items such as candy, soda or cookies are considered gifts and shall not be given or received.



Crew members are expected to obey all laws and regulations and to refrain from behavior that might lead to violence or disorder. "Horseplay" shall be considered mutual combat and shall be disciplined as such. Crew members involved in mutual combat will be ordered to desist. Use of force is not recommended.

Do not engage in undue familiarity or discuss personal affairs with fire crew members. Giving crew members liquor or drugs of any kind is a felony. **In July of 2005, inmates were prohibited from having tobacco. Giving a crew member tobacco of any kind is against the law.** If while fighting fire you enter an area where a marijuana crop is grown or drug lab is suspected, immediately notify the crew captain.



It is a felony to help an inmate escape. If you suspect a crew member is missing, immediately notify the crew captain or correctional staff. No crew member shall be used as a flag person to stop or redirect traffic. Any person who, without authority, interferes, converses with, or in any way interrupts the work of any inmate is in violation of state law.



All vehicles near a work project should be secured. No crew member shall operate a vehicle except under extreme emergency conditions.



No person shall be in the vicinity of a fire crew while bearing arms. In the event an armed Peace Officer needs to operate in or around an incident base or work location, there are procedures for establishing a Weapons Free Zone.

Those required to bear arms in these areas should consult with CAL FIRE or the CDCR Agency Representative.

If a crew member becomes ill or is injured immediately notify the crew captain. If a crew member is injured on a fire or work project, they must receive



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If at any time you have questions or concerns about working with or around inmate fire crews, or if for any reason you feel unsure about procedures, ask the crew captain or Correctional staff.