



Date: September 2, 2009

California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Sacramento, CA


Re: STATEWIDE TRUCK AND BUS REGULATION 2008

TO THE BOARD:

The National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) has been in existence since 1991 and represents over 200 contractors with six chapters throughout the United States. In addition, it has affiliate members including the Northwest Contract Firefighters Association, the Oregon Firefighting Contractors Association, the Northern Rockies Wildfire Contractors Association, and the Western Forest Fire Services Association.

NWSA's members provide fire crews, engines, water tenders, showering units, catering units, tree fallers, dozers, and other resources to help battle wildfires across the United States. NWSA members have also been used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for other national emergencies such as the Shuttle Recovery, hurricane clean up and other disaster relief.

In recent years, the contract fire industry has become an efficient, increasingly vital resource to federal, state and local wildfire suppression officers and public land managers. This is evidenced in the expansion of national "Best Value" engine and crew contracts, which represent a more formalized relationship between the government and the fire suppression contractor. A feature of these contracts is clearly defined standards and inspections.

 National Wildfire Suppression Association |
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NWSA's primary goal is to support and assist its members to be successful in their areas of contracting expertise and provide services that meet or exceed national standards. Another goal is to achieve national recognition as a professional organization, or cooperator.

NWSA appreciates the time your staff spent with us explaining how the rule will affect our members. We also appreciate the fact that you listened to our comments and worked them into the revised language. NWSA believes the new language relative to emergency vehicles, emergency operations, etc is easier to understand and workable.

Sincerely,

Deborah Miley

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Executive Director



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