



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
3833 SOUTH DEVELOPMENT AVENUE
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5354

July 19, 2006

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions
Attention: Regional Fire Management Officers
Agency Fire Management Officers
Tribal Fire Management Officers
Prevention Specialists and Technicians

From: Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Subject: Bureau of Indian Affairs National WeTip Arson Hotline and Rewards Program.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Interagency Fire Center (BIA-NIFC) is pleased to announce the signing of a national agreement between BIA and the WeTip Arson Hotline program. The national agreement allows all Indian Lands under the BIA jurisdiction to receive this service for wildfire arson crimes. This program greatly enhances our ability not only to solve wildfire arson crimes but to pursue proper adjudication for those crimes committed on Indian Lands.

WeTip's Arson Hotline Program offers the WeTip anonymous hotline to all tribal members on Indian Lands and their families. The WeTip hotline is a way for people to get involved in establishing a safer community. Tribal members are often afraid to report arson crime information because they fear reprisal from the person they are reporting. WeTip gives tribal members and their families an opportunity to give information without fear. *The caller always remains absolutely anonymous (not just confidential).* WeTip information is immediately conveyed to the appropriate BIA/Tribal fire and law enforcement agencies.

Cash rewards of up to \$10,000 are given upon verified reports from law enforcement that WeTip information was received prior to arrest and that the information was helpful in the arrest, conviction or proper adjudication. These rewards are a legitimate expenditure against the suppression account (FIRECODE) and will be processed as so. All reward payments are coordinated with WeTip through BIA-NIFC.

Please coordinate all training/informational requests with your Regional WUI/Prevention Specialist. Mr. Sam Scranton may be contacted at (208) 387-5794 for any assistance or questions related to the WeTip Arson Program that your Region may have.