

Governor Walter Hickel Assures Firefighters Vote in Primary

JUNEAU— Fifteen hundred resident Alaskans are not to be deprived of their right to vote in the August 27 primary election thanks to emergency action taken by the Office of Elections and the Bureau of Land Management, Gov. Walter J. Hickel said this week.

The 1500 Alaskans are fighting fires, sometimes hundreds of miles from their home precincts and almost always out of touch by mail with election supervisor offices where absentee ballots are available.

The BLM officials have agreed to fly in the request for absentee ballots to the various camps along the fire lines throughout central Alaska.

When these petitions have been completed by the fire fighters, they will be flown to Fairbanks to the election supervisor's office. Ballots will be issued there and will be flown by BLM back to the fire fighters' camps.

When the ballots have been completed, they will be flown by BLM aircraft back to Fairbanks to the elections office for normal processing.

Less than two weeks remain in which to accomplish the airlift of ballots. According to law, absentee ballot requests must be filed at least four days prior to the date of the election.

Gov. Hickel expressed his

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appreciation for the excellent cooperation rendered by the BLM officials in assisting the State to see that the fire fighters will vote in the primary election.