

Box Canyon Rd Palen Sand Dunes Painted Canyon

Dear BLM Applicant:

The following is information about the **Bureau of Land Management Commercial Film Permit Application**.

Attached you will find:

1. BLM Cover Page with instructions and fee information – 3 pages
2. Land Use Application and Permit, 3 pages (**signature required on Page 1 & 2**)
3. Film Permit Application, 4 pages (**signature required on page 4**)
4. Commercial Filming Stipulations, 5 pages (**signature required on page 5**)
5. Wildlife & Misc. Information – yours to keep

**Please include with your return Email:**

- a. #2 – 4 signed and completed (required)
- b. A **Storyboard or a detailed description of activities** (not required but highly recommended)
- c. A map showing exactly what area(s) you are requesting – decimal GPS coordinates are preferred
- d. A Certificate of Insurance **and** a Letter of Endorsement listing the **Bureau of Land Management** as additionally insured (Required – see page two (2) for details)

Please read and complete the aforementioned forms. ***Any pages left unsigned or incomplete will halt the permit process and delay your permit.*** Please use the checklist above to verify you have prepared all the appropriate documents. Once the **signed and fully complete** application has been received, along with required insurance documents and payment, the IEFS will process your permit within 30 business days. It is important to list **ALL** props, vehicles, and equipment to be used, along with a detailed description of your activities and/or a storyboard. You must list all stunts, precision driving, pyrotechnics, explosive devices, airplanes, helicopters or drones used in your shoot.

**FEES\***

All Motion Filming (Film, Digital, Video, etc.).....Permit Rates: 01-30 people = \$250/day  
31-60 people = \$500/day  
61+ people = \$600/day

Commercial Still Photography .....Permit Rates: 01-10 people = \$100/day  
11-30 people = \$150/day  
31+ people = \$250/day

Processing Fee .....To be determined based on BLM Review (Starts at \$278)

Monitoring Fee .....To be determined based on BLM Review (Starts at \$278)

IEFS Fee<sup>+</sup> .....\$235 per permit

**ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

\*Regulations (43 CFR 2920.6(b)) require the collection of cost recovery and monitoring fees for land use permits.

*<sup>+</sup>to avoid this fee you can contact the BLM directly for permit processing – (760) 833-7100. This will also increase your permit processing time to 45-60 days or more.*

## Bureau of Land Management

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### **ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**

All invoices will be sent via Square.com where you can pay online with a credit card or via ACH

If you want to pay by check, make it payable to the Inland Empire Film Services, Inc. Once you have been given your total, overnight (via FedEx, UPS, etc.) your check to the address supplied by the IEFS representative. Keep in mind that the check has to clear the bank before the permit will be issued.

You must provide proof of liability insurance and a Letter of Endorsement (ISO Form CG-20-12-07-98 or equivalent) naming the Bureau of Land Management as additionally insured for the amount of \$1 million.

The Insurance Certificate *must* read in the "Certificate Holder" Box *verbatim*:  
**"Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262"**

The Insurance Certificate *must* read in the "Description of Operations" Box *verbatim*:  
**"U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, as additional insured"**

The Letter of Endorsement *must* read *verbatim*:

**"Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262"**

And

**"U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, as additional insured"**

In the event of the use of aircraft (planes, helicopters, etc), an Aircraft Liability Insurance Certificate and Letter of Endorsement is required naming the Bureau of Land Management as additionally insured in the amount of \$5 million. *If you are using drones, an UAS/aircraft liability insurance in the amount of \$2 million is required along with your FAA drone documents and a POA with Aeronautical maps, copy of 107 cert and FAA drone registration.*

The Aircraft Insurance Certificate *must* read in the "Certificate Holder" Box *verbatim*:  
**"Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262"**

The Aircraft Insurance Certificate *must* read in the "Description of Operations" Box *verbatim*:  
**"U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, as additional insured"**

The Aircraft Letter of Endorsement *must* read *verbatim*:

**"Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262"**

And

**"U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, as additional insured"**

### **A Copy of your "Plan of Activities" (POA) filed with the FAA is also required for aircraft**

Please contact us once a specific location has been chosen to determine the availability of that location on the date you desire. **All locations requested are tentative and are not guaranteed reserved until your paperwork is received, completed, signed and paid in full.**

All vehicles to be used during filming must have displayed the approved permit on the front, driver's side dashboard. Also, a complete copy of your complete permit, stipulations, maps and insurance must be on site at all times.



## THANK YOU for permitting Bureau of Land Management Lands

*Part of*  
***“Hollywood’s Largest Backlot!”™***

Inland Empire Film Services has crew and services available for film production, feature films, commercials, television, still photography, music videos, industrial videos, independent films, student films, and more! Just check out our website ([www.iefilmpermits.com](http://www.iefilmpermits.com)), email us ([blm@iefilmpermits.com](mailto:blm@iefilmpermits.com)) or give us a call.

If you need any assistance  
please do not hesitate to contact us

**Dan Taylor .....(951) 415-9600**  
**Linda Kai-Gorman .....(951) 415-3419**

Thank you for filming our  
"27,000 Square Miles of Filming Opportunity!"™



Bureau of Land Management  
**Filming on Public  
Lands**



**Required Form --  
DETAILED  
DESCRIPTION OF  
FILMING ACTIVITY**

\*\*\*Print this form, fill it in, and send it to the appropriate BLM office.\*\*\*

**1. Company Name:**

**2. Production Manager &Phone #:**

**3. Alternate Contact &Phone #:**

**4. Site Location/Name:**

**5. Specific location (ie, what part of lake bed/dunes,etc.):**

**6. Dates & hours of use:**

**7. Number of personnel to be on location (include everyone):**

**8. Animals to be on location:**

**9. Describe activity to occur in detail (if possible, attach a copy of the story board):**

**10. List numbers and type of equipment, vehicles, and aircraft to be on location:**

**# Cameras:**

**# Small vehicles (<than one ton):**

**# Large vehicles:(>than one ton):**

**# Aircraft:(numbers and type):**

**11. Describe props and sets to be used/constructed:**

**12. Describe any explosives to be used:**

**13. Describe any pyrotechnics to be used:**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**LAND USE APPLICATION AND PERMIT**  
(Sec. 302(b) of P.L. 94-579, October 21, 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1732)

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 1004-0009  
Expires: March 31, 2014

FOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) USE ONLY

Application Number

1. Name (first, middle initial, and last)	Address (include zip code)	Phone (include area code)
2. Attach map or sketch showing public lands for which you are applying		
3. Proposed date(s) of use: from _____ to _____		
4. Give legal basis for holding interest in lands in the State of <u>CALIFORNIA</u> (Check appropriate box at right and explain.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
5. Are the lands now improved, occupied or used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (If "yes," describe improvements and purposes, identify users and occupants.)		
6. Do you need access to the land? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Describe needed or existing access)  <b>Only filming in the right-of-way of the County maintained Box Canyon Rd.</b>		

7a. What do you propose to use the lands for?

See attached

b. What improvements and/or land development do you propose? (To complete application processing, engineering and construction drawings may be required)

N/A

c. What is the estimated capital cost?

\$ 0

d. What is the source of water for the proposed use?

For personal use only

I CERTIFY That the information given by me in this application is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given in good faith.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

(Continued on page 2)

## PERMIT

Permission is hereby granted to of to use the following described lands:				Permit Number
TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	SUBDIVISION	

Meridian <b>RIVERSIDE COUNTY</b>	State <b>CALIFORNIA</b>	County <b>RIVERSIDE COUNTY</b>	Acres (number)
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for the purpose of  
**commercial filming - All activity will be restricted to the Right-Of-Way of Box Canyon Rd - No disturbance to the BLM lands. See addendum.**

and subject to the following conditions:

1. This permit is issued for the period specified below. It is revocable at the discretion of the BLM, at any time upon notice. This permit is subject to valid adverse claims heretofore or hereafter acquired.
2. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR 2920) which are made a part hereof.
3. This permit may not be assigned without prior approval of the BLM.
4. Permittee must not enclose roads or trails commonly in public use.
5. Authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and State and local law officials will at all times have the right to enter the premises on official business.
6. Permittee must pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from the use.
7. Permittee must notify the BLM of address change immediately.
8. Permittee must observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the premises and to erection or maintenance of signs or advertising displays including the regulations for the protection of game birds and game animals, and must keep the premises in a neat, orderly, and sanitary condition.
9. Permittee must pay the BLM, in advance, the lump sum of \$ for the period of use authorized by this permit or \$ , annually, as rental or such other sum as may be required if a rental adjustment is made.
10. Use or occupancy of land under this permit will commence within months from date hereof and must be exercised at least days each year.
11. Permittee must take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires and prevent pollution of waters on or in the vicinity of the lands.
12. Permittee must not cut any timber on the lands or remove other resources from the land without prior written permission from the BLM. Such permission may be conditioned by a requirement to pay fair market value for the timber or other resources.
13. Permittee agrees to have the serial number of this permit marked or painted on each advertising display or other facility erected or maintained under the authority of such permit.
14. This permit is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, which sets forth the Equal Opportunity clauses. A copy of this order may be obtained from the BLM.
15. Permittee acknowledges, by signing below, that he/she knows, understands and accepts the terms and conditions under which this permit is issued.

16. Special conditions (*attach additional sheets, if necessary*)

## SEE ATTACHED STIPULATIONS

Permit issued for period	(Permittee)
From _____	(BLM)
To _____	FIELD MANAGER (Title) _____ (Date) _____

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Submit, in *duplicate*, to any local office of the Bureau of Land Management having jurisdiction of the lands.
2. Applications for Land Use Permits will not be accepted unless a notification of the availability of the land for non-BLM use (*Notice of Realty Action*) has been published in the Federal Register and for 3 weeks thereafter in a newspaper of general circulation. This provision does not apply in those situations where the publication of a (*Notice of Realty Action*) has been waived by the BLM.
3. Costs of processing the application must be paid by the applicant in advance.
4. The BLM may require additional information to process an application. Processing will be deferred until the required information is furnished by the applicant.

## NOTICES

**The Privacy Act** and 43 CFR 2.48(d) require that you be furnished with the following information in connection with the information required by this form.

**AUTHORITY:** 43 U.S.C. 1732 and 43 CFR Part 2920 permit collection of the information requested by this form.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** The BLM uses the information in this form to process your application.

**ROUTINE USES:** In accordance with the System of Records titled, "Land and Minerals Authorization Tracking System--Interior, LLM-32," disclosure outside the Department of the Interior may be made: (1) To appropriate Federal agencies when concurrence or supporting information is required prior to granting or acquiring a right or interest in lands or resources, (2) To Federal, State, or local agencies or a member of the general public in response to a specific request for pertinent information, (3) To the U.S. Department of Justice or in a proceeding before a court or adjudicative body when (a) the United States, the Department of the Interior, a component of the Department, or when represented by the government, an employee of the Department is a party to litigation or anticipated litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and (b) the Department of the Interior determines that the disclosure is relevant or necessary to the litigation and is compatible with the purpose for which the records were compiled, (4) To an appropriate Federal, State, local, or foreign agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing a statute, regulation, rule, or order, where the disclosing agency becomes aware of an indication of a violation or potential violation of civil or criminal law or regulation, (5) To a member of Congress or a Congressional staff member from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry made at the request of that individual, (6) To the Department of the Treasury to effect payment to Federal, State, and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals, and (7) To individuals involved in responding to a breach of Federal data. The BLM will only disclose this information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and the provisions at 43 CFR 2.56(c).

**The Paperwork Reduction Act** requires us to inform you that:

The BLM collects this information to process applications for land use authorizations, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 2920.

You do not have to respond to this or any other Federal agency-sponsored information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION:** Submission of the requested information is necessary to obtain or retain a benefit. Failure to submit all of the requested information or to complete this form may result in delay or preclude the BLM's acceptance of your form.

**BURDEN HOURS STATEMENT:** The estimated public reporting burden for this form is 1 hour per response for the majority of responses, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. For more complex responses, the estimated public reporting burden is 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. You may submit comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (1004-0009), Bureau Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

**Film Permit Stipulations**  
**BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office**

1. Mecca Hills Wilderness is on both sides of Box Canyon. Filming activities are permitted within 200 feet from centerline of Box Canyon Road or up to the canyon walls if less than 200 feet. Activity must stay within pre-existing disturbance areas, no new disturbance or off road vehicle travel will be permitted. Use of the canyon walls and hills is excluded. Commercial; photography is permitted within 200 feet of the paved road.
2. No more than 4 vehicles are permitted on location.
3. Vehicles shall only park in previously disturbed areas devoid of vegetation.
4. Permittee shall provide BLM with certificate of public liability insurance (COI) in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 naming the Bureau of Land Management as additionally insured.
5. Vegetation shall not be removed, cleared or destroyed within the area.
6. Vehicles and/or equipment will not be allowed to block road access and will stay within road right-of-way and disturbed turnouts of the roads. (The Highway Patrol and County of Riverside should be notified for required permits).
7. Permittee is authorized to locate their vehicles within disturbed areas large enough to accommodate them without disturbing or destroying vegetation.
8. All trash or prop material associated with the project must be removed from the site at conclusion of filming.
9. Areas of sand/soil moved and recontoured by permittee shall be replaced and returned to as close to original state as possible to the satisfaction of the designated authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management.
10. Permittee shall be held responsible for stipulations compliance by all parties associated with the permit.
11. Pyrotechnics are not authorized with this permit.
12. The permittee is required to keep a copy of this permit on site at all times for review by BLM personnel upon request. All persons (i.e., Permittees, contractors, sub-contractor, etc.) working at the site shall be familiar with the permit stipulations.
13. BLM will conduct site monitoring before and after the filming takes place.

14. Permittee shall supply their own drinking water and sanitation facilities. Absolutely no dumping of sewage or garbage on the ground is permitted.
15. Permittee shall leave the area in a condition satisfactory to the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management.
16. Any changes of site shooting location on public lands must be approved by the Authorized Officer.
17. Permittee shall be responsible for obtaining any required State and/or County permits or licenses. The permit authorizes the use of public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM only.
18. Filming or recording BLM signs, including the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument sign, is prohibited.
19. Issuance of this permit does not constitute exclusive use of the public lands by the Permittee. Other permits may be issued within this permit area at the discretion of the Authorized Officer.
20. This permit may be revoked by the Authorized Officer for cause. The determination of what Constitutes cause will be decided solely by the Authorized Officer. There will be no refund of monies remitted by the Permittee for authorizations that are revoked by the Authorized Officer for cause. Examples of what may be considered cause include, but are not limited to, any violation of permit stipulations, interfering with other lawful users, unnecessary surface disturbance, and failure to follow the direction of any BLM employee directing and/or coordinating on-the-ground activities associated with this permit.
21. Filming operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to avoid creating safety hazards to other public lands visitors and users, and to the filming crews. The Permittee shall use whatever signs, flagging, help of individuals, or other appropriate safety devices for the safe conduct of the filming operation and the protection of other users and visitors before, during, and after filming activities. Props, equipment and vehicles that are left overnight at ongoing filming sites, must be accompanied by a guard and warning lights.
22. No person shall carry a weapon, including, but not limited to firearms and batons, during the performance of their duties or while acting in any way as an agent of the Permittee unless specifically authorized in writing by the Authorized Officer. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure continued compliance with this stipulation.
23. You must receive prior approval from the Authorized Officer for the use of animals. Animals not endemic to the area shall be under the control of qualified animal handlers at all times. Animals shall not be allowed to feed on the natural vegetation. The Permittee

is responsible for providing appropriate weed-free feed immediately upon request to use the animal in filming and throughout the duration the animal is on public lands. The Permittee is responsible for providing water for the animals. All animal waste shall be removed from the public lands on a daily basis. Transmission of diseases from domestic animals to wildlife will be avoided through appropriate action 9 vaccines, avoidance of contact, etc.

24. Helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft will not be used during the filming project unless specifically authorized in the permit. If use is authorized, the Permittee shall provide on-the-ground traffic control, as well as other precautionary measures deemed necessary by the authorized officer to ensure public safety. Fueling of aircraft on public lands will not be authorized.
25. **Film companies planning to use drones** must use a company that has been granted an exemption by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); exempted companies are listed at this website:

[http://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative\\_programs/section\\_333/333\\_authorizations/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative_programs/section_333/333_authorizations/)

You may also use an operator that has acquired the FAA Part 107 Certification. Filming companies must provide the BLM with a copy of the exemption/certification paperwork before a film permit can be issued for drone use.

26. Within **180 days after completion** of the filming operation, **the permittee is required to provide the BLM office with copies of prints and/or video depicting the project, as authorized by this permit.** This material will become the property of the BLM for use in developing a library to represent the types of filming activities that occur on the BLM public lands. Materials should be sent to:

**Bureau of Land Management  
Film Permit/Realty  
1201 Bird Center Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262**

27. *For movie projects;* Acknowledgment through the film credits shall be given to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, for the portion of the movie filmed on lands administered by the BLM.

## **General Desert Tortoise Mitigation Measures**

### **Worker Training**

All workers shall be given special instruction on the desert tortoise prior to any filming activities occurring along Box Canyon Road. This instruction will include training on distribution, general behavior and ecology, protection afforded by State and Federal Endangered Species Acts (including prohibitions and penalties), and procedures for reporting encounters, and the importance of following the protection measures.

### **No New Surface Disturbance**

No new surface disturbance allowed. Previously disturbed areas shall be used as worksites and for storage of equipment and supplies. No crushing or removal of perennial vegetation (i.e., shrubs) is allowed.

### **Biological Monitor**

For activities conducted between March 15 and November 1, filming activities shall be monitored by a Qualified Biologist approved by BLM or the BLM Wildlife Biologist for the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office. The Biologist shall be present during all activities in which encounters with tortoises may occur. The Biologist shall watch for tortoises wandering into the filming areas, check under vehicles, and conduct other activities necessary to ensure that death or injuries of tortoises is avoided. All sightings of tortoises will be reported immediately to the BLM Wildlife Biologist. No touching, handling, collecting, or harassing of tortoises is allowed.

### **Refuse Disposal**

All trash and food items generated by filming activities shall be promptly contained and regularly removed from the project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to common ravens and other desert predators.

### **Dogs**

No dogs allowed on site.

### **Motorized Access**

Motor vehicle access shall be limited to maintained roads and designated routes. Be watchful for tortoises on dirt roads. If a tortoise is spotted by the film crew, it will be reported immediately to the BLM Wildlife Biologist.

- a. Speed Limits.** Vehicle speed within a project area, along right-of-way maintenance roads and on routes designated for limited use shall not exceed 20 miles per hour. Workers shall be made aware of these limits.
- b. Tortoises Under Vehicles.** Vehicles shall be inspected immediately prior to being moved. If a tortoise is found beneath a vehicle, the Authorized Biologist shall be

contacted to move the animal from harm's way, or the vehicle shall not be moved until the desert tortoise leaves of its own accord.

The Permittee acknowledges, by signing below, that he/she knows, understands and accepts the terms and conditions under which this permit is issued.

X\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## THE DESERT TORTOISE

**STATUS:** On April 2, 1990 the desert tortoise was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species. Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, anyone who takes (the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) a tortoise is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties of up to a \$50,000 fine and one year in jail or both. BLM will be assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service in the enforcement of the Act. Additionally, the desert tortoise is considered by California to be a threatened species with associated penalties.

**BIOLOGY:** Like other reptiles, the desert tortoise is cold blooded. To survive in the desert the tortoise "sleeps" through the heat of summer and the cold of winter in a burrow deep underground. Tortoises come out in the spring (and for a short period in the late summer and fall) to eat, drink, socialize, travel, etc. At other times of the year they are less active or not active at all.

The desert tortoise lays from 4 to 14 ping pong ball size eggs each year after reaching 10 to 20 years of age. Since a tortoise may live for 60 to 100 years, many eggs will be laid in a lifetime. However, only about 5 out of every 100 hatchlings will survive to become an adult tortoise. For the first 6 or 8 years, the young tortoise's shell is no thicker than your fingernail, and therefore, it is easy prey for many other desert animals.

Many of man's activities are also threatening the survival of the desert tortoise and are considered illegal. Some of these include:

1. removing wild tortoises from the desert,
2. releasing pet tortoises into the desert (they often carry disease),
3. driving off roads in areas not designated for off-highway vehicle play,
4. crushing tortoises as they are crossing roads,
5. shooting at tortoises, and
6. handling tortoises found in the desert (this may cause them to lose vital water supplies).

### Some DOs and DON'Ts:

1. If you find a desert tortoise in the desert, DO take pictures, get down and look at it (but not too closely so that you don't harass it), watch to see how it moves and what it eats, and then walk away and know that you have done a good deed by letting it live in peace.
2. While driving on desert roads, DO keep an eye out for tortoises crossing the road. If you encounter one and have plenty of room to pass, drive slowly and carefully around it. If you don't have room to pass, stop and let the tortoise move across the road of its own accord. If the tortoise is on a paved road and in immediate danger, pull your car over and stop in a safe place. Lift the tortoise slowly and gently, keeping it level. Move it to a safe place, no more than 100 yards away, in the same direction that it was traveling. Carefully set it down, preferably in the shade of a shrub.
3. If you want a pet desert tortoise DON'T take one out of the desert! Do call the California Turtle and Tortoise Club (Linda York in Palm Desert at (760) 347-2647 or Bunny Williams in San Bernardino at (714) 862-4777) or the California Department of Fish and Game at (714) 597-8235. You also will need to get a free permit from the Department of Fish and Game to legally keep the tortoise.
4. If you get tired of a pet desert tortoise DON'T let it go in the desert. Release of captive tortoises is a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Instead, call one of the numbers listed above to find a new home for your pet.

Revised 3/27/97



## **Desert Survival Safety Tips**

Before any trip, always let someone know where you are going, the route(s) you plan to take, and when you expect to return. Make sure to stick to your plan. It will increase your chances of survival greatly. Be sure to check the road and weather reports before traveling as well.

When in hot weather, you need to adapt gradually, going into the heat for short periods at first. Always keep your clothing on. It helps to keep the body temperature down and reduces the dehydration rate. Also, cover your head. If a hat is not handy, improvise a head covering. Also make sure to drink fluids frequently and eat small meals regularly during the day. Do not drink alcohol. It will decrease your ability to tolerate the heat. If you have water, drink it. Do not ration it. Carry at least one gallon of water per person per day. In a pinch, use plastic gallon jugs. They are handy and are transported easily. If water is limited, keep your mouth shut. Do not talk, do not eat, do not smoke, and, as mentioned before, do not drink any alcohol.

The best thing to do is find shade, sit down, and prop up your feet. You may adjust your shoes and socks, but *do not remove them* – you may not be able to get them back on your swollen feet (a common problem). If you must walk in the sun/heat, rest for at least 10 minutes every hour. If you are not normally physically active, rest up to 30 minutes every hour. Try to avoid sitting or lying directly on the ground. It may be 30+ degrees hotter than the surrounding air.

Make it a point to keep an eye on the sky. If you see “Thunderheads,” near or far, be prepared to evacuate. Flash floods may occur in a wash in a matter of moments. They can fill low spots to dangerous levels very quickly. During evacuation, or any other time, do not drive through flooded roads if you can’t tell how deep it is.

Be sure your vehicle is in good condition with a sound battery, good hoses, spare tire, spare fan belts, necessary tools, reserve gasoline, and extra oil. Other spare parts and extra radiator water are also valuable.

Before driving through washes and sandy areas test the footing. One minute on foot may save hours of hard work changing a flat, digging your vehicle free, or replacing a punctured oil pan. It is recommended to use a four-wheel-drive vehicle when traversing these areas.

If caught in a dust storm while driving, immediately get off the road. Turn off your headlights, and turn on your emergency flashers. Try to position your vehicle with the back to the wind. This will reduce windshield pitting by sand particles.

If your vehicle breaks down, stay near it. Your car and various items within it can be useful in an emergency. You can raise the hood and truck lid to denote “Help Needed.” Also, a vehicle can be seen for miles, but a person on foot is very difficult to find. Only leave a disabled vehicle if you are positive of the route to help. If you must walk for help, wait until sunset and leave a note telling which way you went.

## **Heat Related Illness**

### **Body Temperature Regulation**

Regulating ones body temperature is a constant balancing act of heat input from ambient temperature, metabolism, physical work, sunlight, and heat output from radiation, evaporation, conduction, and convection.

Normally, radiation accounts for about two-thirds of heat loss, with one-third resulting from evaporation. If you are very hot, or working hard and sweating, evaporation can become a major factor in heat loss, except for when it very humid, in which case evaporation has no effect. Conversely, water conduction may also be a major factor in heat loss. When immersed in water, one can lose significant body heat (unless the water is around body temperature). Infants and very young children lack effective heat regulatory mechanisms and are more at risk for heat related injuries.

Acclimatization by exertion (i.e. working or working out) in the heat encourages the body to adjust to a hot climate. Until one is acclimated, heavy exertion should be limited to 30-90 minutes per day, avoiding the hottest part of the day.

Clothing should be lightweight, light in color, and a loose weave. A wide-brimmed hat will help keep you cool and prevent sunburn.

Be aware of humidity! Even in relatively cool temperatures (75 degrees), marked exertion in very high humidity can lead to heat illness due to failure of evaporative cooling.

### **Heat Disorders**

#### **Heat Cramps**

These are painful cramps, usually following exercise or heavy exertion, and often affecting major muscles such as the calves and thighs. Stretching, maintaining good hydration and electrolyte balance, as will becoming acclimated to the heat has been found to be the most effective in alleviating this painful condition.

#### **Heat Syncope**

Heat Syncope is when one faints due to heat exposure, often after prolonged standing or when standing up from a seated position. Most people recover quickly to fluid replacement. Older individuals and those on hypertension medications are most at risk.

#### **Heat Exhaustion**

This is caused by dehydration and depletion of electrolytes, or body salts. Its symptoms are weakness, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. An increased body temperature and pulse rate may also be present. The treatments for heat exhaustion is to rest, get out of the heat/sun, sponge the body with water and fanning it, and to replace the body's fluids and salt with a sports drink, or water and salty snacks. If not taken seriously, this can progress to heat stroke.

#### **Heat Stroke**

In this condition the body loses its ability to regulate temperature causes the body temperature to soar, often to above 106 degrees. Sweating may or may not be present. Heat stroke will result in physical collapse and mental deterioration ranging from confusion to coma. If someone is exhibiting these systems, call 911 immediately. This is a medical emergency and must be treated aggressively with rapid cooling and IV fluids. If not, permanent damage to kidneys, heart, or liver may result, and in some cases, death. If you suspect someone is experiencing heat stroke, here are a few emergency treatment that will help until emergency crews arrive: 1) remove clothing, 2) cool/wet the body, with whatever water that is available, 3) fan the body, 4) if victim is able to drink, give them water, a sports drink, or any oral rehydration formula.

#### **Preventing Heat Illness**

Even marginal dehydration interferes with the body's ability to regulate temperature. It can also cause mild diarrhea, which can dramatically increase dehydration. In hot climates, you should always consume enough water so that you urinate every two to three hours. If your urine becomes dark yellow, it means that you are getting dehydrated or that you are getting jaundiced.