

Chapter 13

Firefighter Training & Qualifications

This is a combination of chapters 13 and 14 from 2007.

Introduction

Agency standards for training and qualifications which may exceed the minimum standards established by National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) are coordinated through the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board. Such additional standards will be approved by the Fire Directors, and implemented through the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS).

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) sanctioned firefighters are trained and qualified according to the NWCG and other standards, as outlined below.

Policy

It is agency policy that only qualified personnel will be assigned duties in wildland fire suppression or prescribed fire. All employees assigned dedicated fire program management responsibilities at the local, geographic area, or national level shall meet established interagency and agency competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) and associated qualifications. The NWCG, Wildland Fire Qualifications Systems Guide PMS 310-1 is the policy.

Requirements for fire management positions are outlined. Firefighters must meet standards identified in the NWCG publication PMS 310-1 National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualifications Guide. The 310-1 may be found at <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/PMS310-1.pdf> FS - See 5109.17 for additional requirements.

Certain firefighters must meet standards identified in the Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide, referred to as the IFPM Standard. The supplemental Qualification Standard for professional GS-0401 Fire Management Specialist positions, approved by the Office of Personnel Management, is also included in the IFPM Standard. The Interagency Fire Program Management Qualification Standards and Guide can be found in its entirety on the IFPM website at <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov>.

Agency standards for training and qualifications which may exceed the minimum standards established by National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) are coordinated through the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board. Such additional standards will be approved by the Fire Directors, and implemented through the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS).

BLM - Standards which may exceed the minimum standards established by NWCG are identified in the BLM Fire and Aviation Training Information Job Aid which can be found at :

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http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/publications/job_a_id.html

FS - Standards which may exceed the minimum standards established by NWCG are identified in FSH 5109.17. AD hires sponsored by the Forest Service will meet FSH 5109.17 position qualification standards.

NPS - L380 Fireline Leadership is recommended training for single resource bosses; L-381 Incident Leadership is recommended training for RXBI.

Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS)

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) is the fire qualifications and certification record keeping system. The Responder Master Record report provided by the IQCS meets the agency requirement for maintaining fire qualification records. The system is designed to provide managers at the local, state/regional, and national levels with detailed qualification, experience, and training information needed to certify employees in wildland fire positions. The IQCS is a tool to assist managers in certification decisions, however, it does not replace the manager's responsibility to validate that employees meet all requirements for position performance based on their agency standards.

A hard copy file folder will be kept for each employee. The contents will include, but are not limited to: training records for all agency required courses, evaluations from assignments, position Task Book verification, yearly updated IQCS forms, and the Responder Master Record (RPTC028) from IQCS.

All records will be stored and/or destroyed in accordance with agency policies.

BLM - These policies can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/records/blmgrs/toc.html>

Certification of Non-Agency Personnel

Non-agency firefighters will be certified by state or local fire departments, or private training providers with are approved by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through their local GACC. Agencies will not assist in the administration, or sponsor the Work Capacity Test (WCT), as the certifying agency.

Incident Qualifications Card (Red Card)

The agency administrator (or delegate) is responsible for annual certification of all agency and Administrative Determined (AD) personnel serving in wildland and prescribed fire positions. Agency certification is issued annually in the form of an Incident Qualification Card (Red Card), which certifies that formerly the Red Card certifying the individual is qualified to perform in a specified position.

The Red Incident Qualification Card must be reviewed for accuracy and signed by the agency administrator or delegated official. The agency administrator, fire manager, and individual are responsible for monitoring medical status, fitness, training, performance, and for taking appropriate action to ensure the employee meets all position performance requirements.

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1
2 Training, medical screening, and successful completion of the appropriate WCT
3 must be properly accomplished. All Incident Qualification Cards issued to
4 agency employees, with the exception of Emergency Firefighter (EFF) paid or
5 temporary employees at the FFT2 level, will be printed using the IQCS.

6 Incident Qualification Cards issued to EFF or temporary employees at the
7 FFT2 level may be printed at the local level without use of the IQCS.

8
9 Each agency will designate employees at the national, regional/state, and local
10 levels as Fire Qualifications Administrators, who ensure all incident experience,
11 incident training, and position Task Books for employees within the agency are
12 accurately recorded in the IQCS. All records must be updated annually or
13 modified as changes occur.

14 NPS - Certification for Area Command and Type 1 Command and General
15 Staff positions (C&GS) position task books will be done at the national office
16 level; certification for Type 2 positions C&GS and for FUM1 position task
17 books, and any position task books issued to park fire management officers will
18 be certified at the regional office level. All other position task
19 books may be certified at the local unit level.

20
21
22
23 The Incident Qualifications Card Expiration Dates
24 Red Card positions requiring Work Capacity Tests (WCT) are valid through the
25 fitness expiration date listed on the card.

26 Red Card positions Incident Qualification Card positions that do not requiring
27 require WCT for issuance are valid for 12 months from the date the card was
28 signed by a certifying official.

29
30 Qualification System

31
32 Minimum Universal Training Requirements

33 All personnel filling Incident Command System (ICS) positions on the fireline
34 must have completed:

35 S-130, Firefighter Training;

36 S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior;

37 L-180, Human Factors on the Fireline and I-100;

38 I-100 Introduction to ICS

39 NPS - It is NPS policy that two or more assignments be accomplished after
40 completing a Position Task Book, and receiving certification, before an
41 individual begins movement to the next higher level. It is also NPS policy to
42 require two or more qualified assignments be accomplished in a position before
43 an individual may become a position performance evaluator. Exceptions to this
44 should be rare and well founded. The only exceptions to this policy are unit
45 leader positions leading to Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, or

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Finance Section Chief. Subordinate unit leader positions require a minimum of one assignment after the PTB completion and position certification.
FS - Forest Service direction is found in FSH 5109.17.

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in wildland fire who may be subject to assignments on the fireline. Any unescorted visitors must meet the requirements specified in Chapter 067 of this volume. Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training must include the following core topics:

Avoiding Entrapments - Use training and reference materials to study the risk management process as identified in the Incident Response Pocket Guide and rules of engagement as appropriate to the participants, e.g., LCES, Standard Firefighting Orders, Eighteen Watch Out Situations, Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) direction, Fire Management Plan priorities, etc.

Current Issues - Review and discuss identified "hot topics" as found on the current Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) website. Review forecasts and assessments for the upcoming fire season and discuss implications for firefighter safety.

Fire Shelter - Review and discuss last resort survival. Conduct "hands-on" fire shelter inspections. Practice shelter deployments in applicable crew/module configurations. No "live fire" exercises for the purpose of fire shelter deployment training will be conducted.

Other Hazards and Safety Issues - Choose additional hazard and safety subjects, which could may include SAFENET, current safety alerts, site/unit specific safety issues and hazards.

These core topics must be sufficiently covered to ensure that personnel are aware of safety concerns and procedures and can demonstrate proficiency in fire shelter deployment. The minimum refresher training hour requirements for each agency is identified below. Training time may be extended in order to effectively complete this curriculum or to meet local training requirements.

BLM - 4 hours

FWS - 8 hours

NPS - 8 hours

FS - 8 hours No minimum time requirement. Content dictated by National Fire Program Managers.

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training will have a 12-month currency.

Firefighters who receive initial fire training are not required to take Annual

Fireline Safety Refresher Training in the same calendar year. A web site,

http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm, titled Wildland Fire Safety Training

Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) is available to assist in this training.

BLM - The "Do What's Right" training is required annual training but is not a prerequisite for issuance of a red card.

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1 ~~FS – The Incident Complexity Analysis found in Appendix G will be shared with all~~
 2 ~~Type 3, 4, & 5 Incident Commanders. Review of this guide should be a part of your~~
 3 ~~annual refresher training.~~ Qualification Card.
 4
 5 Entrapment avoidance and deployment protocols are identified in the Incident
 6 Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) (PMS No. 461/NFES No.1077). The guide
 7 contains a specific “Risk Management Process” and “Last Resort Survival
 8 Checklist”.
 9
 10 ~~An Incident Response Pocket Guide~~ IRPG will be issued to every fireline
 11 supervisor.
 12
 13 Non-NWCG Agencies’ Qualifications
 14 ~~Personnel from other agencies who do not subscribe to the NWCG qualification~~
 15 ~~standards may be used on agency-managed fires. However, agency fire managers must~~
 16 ~~ensure these individuals are only assigned to duties commensurate with their abilities,~~
 17 ~~agency qualifications, and equipment capabilities.~~
 18
 19 ~~For prescribed fires evaluated to have low complexity, the agency and its local~~
 20 ~~cooperators will jointly agree on qualification requirements. An agency can also~~
 21 ~~establish its own qualifications for higher complexity prescribed fires where the resources~~
 22 ~~of other agencies are not utilized. For prescribed fires which are of moderate complexity~~
 23 ~~or higher and on which resources of more than one agency are utilized, the minimum~~
 24 ~~qualifications established in NWCG 310-1 are required. (NWCG PMS 310-1, page 11)~~
 25 ~~BLM/NPS/FWS – Other agencies personnel, meeting NWCG 310-1, prerequisites, can~~
 26 ~~participate in and receive certificates for successful completion of BLM/NPS/FWS taught~~
 27 ~~courses. BLM/NPS/FWS employees can complete the Task Blocks, Evaluation Record~~
 28 ~~and Verification/ Certification sections of a cooperating organizations employee Position~~
 29 ~~Task Book. BLM/NPS/FWS employees will not initiate or complete the Agency~~
 30 ~~Certification sections of Position Task Book for non-agency employees.~~
 31
 32 Qualification and Certification Process
 33 ~~Each unit with fire management responsibilities will establish a~~ Redan Incident
 34 Qualification Card qualification and certification process. In areas cooperating
 35 with other federal, state, or local agencies, an interagency qualification and
 36 certification committee should include representatives from each unit. These
 37 qualification and certification committees provide management oversight and
 38 review of the wildland and prescribed fire positions under their jurisdiction. ~~The~~
 39 committee also:
 40 Ensures that qualifications generated by IQCS or other agency systems for
 41 employees are valid by reviewing the training and experience of each employee.
 42 ~~Evaluates if~~ Determines whether each employee possesses the personal
 43 characteristics necessary to perform the wildland and prescribed fire positions in
 44 a safe and efficient manner.
 45 Makes recommendations to the appropriate agency administrator or designee
 46 who is responsible for final certification signature.
 47 Develops interagency training needs and sponsors courses that can be offered
 48 locally.

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Ensures training nominees meet minimum requirements for attending courses.
 NPS – For type 2 complexity qualifications final verification of the Position Task Book will be completed by a regional certifier.
 NPS – For type 1 complexity qualifications final verification of the Position Task Book will be completed by a national certifier.

Non-NWCG Agency Personnel Qualifications
 Personnel from non-NWCG agencies meeting NWCG 310-1, prerequisites, can participate in and receive certificates for successful completion of agency taught courses. Agency employees can complete the Task Blocks, Evaluation Record and Verification/ Certification sections of a cooperating organizations employee Position Task Book. Agency employees will not initiate or complete the Agency Certification sections of Position Task Book for non-agency employees.

Personnel from agencies that do not subscribe to the NWCG qualification standards may be used on agency managed fires. Agency fire managers must ensure these individuals are only assigned to duties commensurate with their competencies agency qualifications, and equipment capabilities.

Non-NWCG Agency Personnel Use On Prescribed Fire
 For prescribed fires evaluated to have low complexity, the agency and its local cooperators will jointly agree on qualification requirements. An agency can also establish its own qualifications for higher complexity prescribed fires where the resources of other agencies are not utilized. For prescribed fires which are of moderate complexity or higher and on which resources of more than one agency are utilized, the minimum qualifications established in NWCG 310-1 are required. (NWCG PMS 310-1)

Physical Fitness

Physical Fitness and Conditioning
 Agency administrators are responsible for ensuring the overall physical fitness of firefighters. The agency administrator may authorize employees who are available and/or Employees serving in wildland fire positions that require a physical fitness rating of arduous, one hour each day for fitness as a condition. Non fire personnel who hold arduous ratings on their red card may be of employment are authorized up to three hours per week one hour of duty time each work day for physical fitness conditioning. All other wildland firefighting personnel with a Employees serving in positions that require a fitness rating other than arduous of moderate or light may be authorized up to three hours per week of duty time for fitness conditioning. Individuals who have a position with an arduous physical requirement may be periodically tested (check FS policy re: union agreement) during the fire season to ensure they are retaining the required level of fitness and conditioning.

Fitness conditioning periods may be identified and structured to include aerobic and muscular exercises. Team sports are not authorized for fitness conditioning. Chapters 7, 8, and 9 of Fitness and Work Capacity, 2nd ed. (1997), and the 13-6

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1 FireFit Program (<http://www.nifc.gov/FireFit/index.htm>) provide excellent
2 guidance concerning training specifically for the pack test, aerobic fitness
3 programs, and muscular fitness training.
4 FS - Forest Service direction is found in FSH 5109.17.
5 FS - NFFE Partnership bargaining unit employees may only be required to
6 successfully complete the WCT once per year.
7 FWS - Specific information as outlined in a Director's memo dated September
8 11, 2007 is as follows: Employees serving in wildland fire positions that require
9 a fitness rating of arduous as a condition of employment are authorized one hour
10 of duty time each work day for physical fitness conditioning. Employees not
11 having a fitness rating of arduous as a condition of employment, but who are
12 required by a Critical Performance element or other written agreement to
13 maintain an arduous level, will be authorized three hours per week of duty time
14 for physical fitness condition. All other wildland firefighting personnel holding
15 qualifications requiring ratings of moderate or arduous may be authorized, by
16 their supervisor, up to three hours per week of duty time for fitness conditioning.
17 Prior to any duty time being allowed for physical fitness conditioning,
18 employees and supervisors must agree, in writing, what physical conditioning
19 activities the employee will engage in, and when and where they will occur.
20 Activities outside of the agreement will not be authorized or allowed. A
21 combination of activities designed to increase both physical strength and aerobic
22 fitness, while minimizing the possibility of physical injury, should be utilized.
23
24 Medical Examinations
25 Agency administrators and supervisors are responsible for the occupational
26 health and safety of their employees performing wildland fire activities, and may
27 require employees to take a medical examination at any time.
28
29 Established medical qualification programs, as stated in 5 CFR 339, provide
30 consistent medical standards in order to safeguard the health of employees
31 whose work may subject them or others to significant health and safety risks due
32 to occupational or environmental exposure or demand.
33
34 Information on any medical records is considered confidential and must be kept
35 in the employee's medical file.
36 FS - MSP records will be maintained in individual Employee Development File
37
38 Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards
39 Program (MSP)
40 The Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards
41 continue has been fully implemented by the DOI agencies and continues to be
42 implemented throughout the DOI and FS organizations. Those units who have not
43 yet implemented the new standards must continue to comply with the current
44 agency standards as stated under Agency Specific Medical Examinations section
45 below until implementation of the new standards is accomplished. Additional
46 information regarding the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical

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Qualification Standards program MSP can be obtained at www.nifc.gov/medical_standards.

All permanent, career-seasonal, temporary, Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) employees, and AD/EFF who participate in wildland fire activities requiring a fitness level of arduous must participate in the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards program MSP at the appropriate level (see Medical Examination Requirements Appendix N) and must be medically cleared prior to attempting the WCT.

Under the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards MSP the Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) will only be required for arduous duty AD/EFF hires less than 45 years of age. If the AD/EFF answers "yes" to a HSQ question and is determined to be "agency mission critical" (e.g. single resource boss) an annual exam may be requested through the medical standards program. The HSQ is not required prior to taking the WCT for all other employment categories (e.g. permanent, seasonal/temporary, term).

No employee Employees or applicant applicants including AD/EFF, who fails to meet the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards as a permanent, seasonal/temporary, or permanent term employee may be hired not perform as an AD/EFF for arduous duty positions.

Agency Specific Medical Examinations

This section applies only to those units who have not yet implemented the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards MSP for arduous duty and for all employees and AD/EFF who participate in wildland fire activities requiring a fitness level of moderate or light.

The Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) will be utilized as a means to identify individuals who may be at risk in taking the Work Capacity Test (WCT) and recommend an exercise program and/or medical examination prior to taking the WCT.

If any "Yes" answer is indicated on the HSQ, a medical examination is required prior to the employee taking the WCT. If there is a known pre-existing medical condition that is already being monitored under medical care (e.g., high blood pressure), a medical clearance statement will be provided by the physician in lieu of a medical examination prior to taking WCT.

Medical examinations will be performed utilizing the U.S. Civil Service Commission Certificate of Medical Examination Form, SF-78. Stress EKGs are not required as part of the medical examination and will only be approved if recommended and administered by the medical examining physician. Cost for exams will be borne by the home unit. If medical findings during exam require

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1 further evaluation, then the cost of any further evaluation or treatment is borne
2 by the employee/applicant.

3
4 ▲ The examining physician will submit the completed SF-78 (and applicable
5 supplements) to the employee’s servicing human resources office, where it will
6 be reviewed and retained in the employee’s medical file.

7 ▲ NPS - “Wildland Firefighter” Defined: Those employees who perform duties of
8 a hazardous and/or strenuous nature are targeted. ▲ Therefore, within this section,
9 “wildland firefighter” hereinafter refers to an employee whose wildland fire
10 position(s) qualifications require an “Arduous” fitness level, as defined in the
11 current PMS 310-1 “Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System
12 Guide”

13 ▲ NPS - For health and fitness purposes, those who are fire-qualified at less than
14 the Arduous fitness level are not required to meet the mandatory fitness program
15 requirements of DO-57 for wildland fire management. However, they are
16 strongly encouraged to participate in the voluntary fitness program, and must
17 still meet physical fitness/work capacity requirements as outlined in 310-1
18 “Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide” for positions with
19 Moderate and Light fitness requirements.

20 ~~NPS – Health Screening: Arduous duty medical exams must be taken once every 3 years
21 by wildland firefighters. They do not include stress EKGs, except for those 41 years or
22 older if required by the examining physician. Those cases would be considered
23 exceptional. FIREPRO funding will not be used to pay for stress EKGs, except in
24 exceptional cases, which require prior approval by the regional fire management officer.
25 NPS – FIREPRO funding may be used to pay for medical exams for mandatory fitness
26 program participants within the following limits:~~

27 ~~NPS – Those who meet the definition of “wildland firefighter” will have costs of all
28 required medical examinations paid for by FIREPRO, not to exceed \$350. Anything in
29 excess of \$350 requires prior approval of the regional fire management officer. This
30 includes recent requirements for blood screenings:~~

31 ~~NPS – In the event an employee selected physician indicates that an EKG or other
32 advanced test is needed, the government may require a second opinion from an appointed
33 physician.~~

34 ~~NPS – The law enforcement medical exam for NPS rangers, who are collateral
35 duty wildland firefighters, will suffice for wildland fire health screening
36 purposes. MSP clearance.~~

37 ~~NPS – Employees requiring medical exams on the 3-year cycle will have exams
38 conducted prior to taking the Arduous fitness WCT (Paek Test).~~

39 ▲ Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ)

40 ▲ Title 5 CFR Part 339 - Medical Qualification Determinations, which provides a
41 determination of an individual’s fitness-for-duty, authorizes solicitation of this
42 information.
43

44 ▲ The HSQ can be found in Appendix L.

45 ▲ The information on the HSQ is considered confidential and once reviewed by
46 the test administrator to determine if the WCT can be administered, it must be
47

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kept in the employee’s medical file (EMF). This file may only be viewed by Human Resource Management (HRM) or Safety personnel.

~~FS – Servicing Personnel Office will notify the test administrator once the employee is cleared to complete the WCT.~~

~~Work Capacity Tests (WCTs)FS - See Work Capacity Test Implementation Guide, see website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>~~

Work Capacity Test (WCT) Administration

The Work Capacity Tests (WCT) is the official method of assessing wildland firefighter fitness levels. See “Work Capacity Tests for Wildland Firefighters, Test Administrator’s Guide” PMS 307, NFES 1109.

WCT Administrators must ensure that WCT participants have been medically cleared, either through Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards or agency specific medical examination.

WCTs are administered annually to all employees, including AD/EFF who will be serving in wildland fire positions that require a fitness level. The currency for the WCT is 12 months.

The WCT Record (see Appendix M) captures information that is covered under the Privacy Act and should be maintained in accordance with agency Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines.

Administration of the WCT of non-federal firefighters is prohibited for liability reasons. Potential emergency firefighters who would be hired under Emergency Hire authority by the agency must be in AD pay status or sign an agency-specific volunteer services agreement when given the WCT.

A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) shall be developed and approved for each field office/unit prior to administrating the WCT. See the sample JHA found in Appendix U. Administer the test using the JHA as a briefing guide.

Document using the WCT Record (see Appendix M). This document must be retained until the next testing. Units may also be requested to provide data from these records to assist in the evaluation of the WCT process.

Personnel taking the WCT will only complete the level of testing (Pack, Field, Walk) required by the highest fitness level identified for a position on their red eard- Incident Qualification Card. To further clarify, employees shall not take the WCT unless they have a red eard- Incident Qualification Card qualification that requires it, and only at the fitness level required by that position as identified in the NWCG 310-1 or agency specific guidance or policy.

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| | | | | |
|-------|-----------|--------|------|---------|
| Light | Walk Test | 1 mile | None | 16 min. |
|-------|-----------|--------|------|---------|

| WCT Category | Distance | Weight | Time |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Arduous Pack Test | 3 miles | 45 lb. | 45 min. |
| Moderate Field Test | 2 miles | 25 lb. | 30 min. |
| Light Walk Test | 1 mile | None | 16 min. |

Arduous - Duties involve field work requiring physical performance with above average endurance and superior conditioning. These duties may include an occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in emergencies under adverse environmental conditions and over extended periods of time.

Requirements include running, walking, climbing, jumping, twisting, bending, and lifting more than 50 pounds; the pace of the work typically is set by the emergency conditions.

Moderate - Duties involve field work requiring complete control of all physical faculties and may include considerable walking over irregular ground, standing for long periods of time, lifting 25 to 50 pounds, climbing, bending, stooping, twisting, and reaching. Occasional demands may be required for moderately strenuous activities in emergencies over long periods of time. Individuals usually set their own work pace.

Light - Duties mainly involve office type work with occasional field activity characterized by light physical exertion requiring basic good health. Activities may include climbing stairs, standing, operating a vehicle, and long hours of work, as well as some bending, stooping, or light lifting. Individuals can usually govern the extent and pace of their physical activity.

Minimum Age Requirements for Hazardous Duty Assignments on Federal Incidents

Persons under 18 years old will not perform hazardous duties during wildland fire management operations on federal jurisdictions.

Engine Modules

Staffing levels and specific requirements for engine personnel may be found in Chapter 14, Fire Fighting Equipment.

Helicopter Modules

Staffing levels and specific requirements for helicopter personnel may be found in Chapter 16, Aviation.

Smokejumpers (SMJ)

Smokejumpers provide professional and effective fire suppression, fuels reduction, and fire management services to help land managers meet objectives.

SMJ Policy

Smokejumper operations are guided by direction in the Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide (ISMOG).

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1
 2 Each base will comply with smokejumper operations standards. The arduous
 3 duties, specialized assignments, and operations in a variety of geographic areas
 4 require smokejumpers to have uniform training, equipment, communications,
 5 organization, and operating procedures.

6
7 SMJ Smokejumper Organization

8 The operational unit for smokejumpers is “one load.”
 9 A load is typically 8-20 smokejumpers and varies as per aircraft type.

10
11 SMJ Coordination & Dispatch

12 Smokejumpers are a national resource and are ordered according to geographic
 13 area or national mobilization guides.

14
15 SMJ Communications

16 All smokejumpers carry programmable radios and are proficient in their use and
 17 programming procedures.

18
19 SMJ Transportation

20 Smokejumper retrieval is accomplished by coordinating with the requesting
 21 dispatch center. More detailed information can be found in the guides
 22 mentioned above.

23
24 SMJ Safety

25 All aviation and parachute operations will be accomplished in accordance with
 26 standard operating procedures and regulations.

27
28 SMJ Training

29 To ensure proficiency and safety, smokejumpers complete annual training that
 30 covers aspects of aviation, parachuting, fire suppression tactics, administrative
 31 procedures, and safety, related to the smokejumper mission and fire operations.
 32 The training program for first-year smokejumpers is four weeks long.
 33 Candidates are evaluated to determine:

- 34 Level of physical fitness
- 35 Ability to learn and perform smokejumper skills
- 36 Ability to work as a team member
- 37 Attitude
- 38 Ability to think clearly and remain productive in a stressful environment

39
40 SMJ Qualifications

| <u>Smokejumper Position</u> | <u>Target ICS Qualification</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>Department Managers</u> | <u>T2 & T1 Command & General Staff, FUMA</u> |
| <u>Spotter</u> | <u>ICT3, DIVS, ATGS, RXB2, SOFR</u> |
| <u>Lead Smokejumper</u> | <u>STLD, TFLD, FOBS</u> |
| <u>Smokejumper</u> | <u>ICT4, CRWB, FIRB</u> |

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Rookie Smokejumper

ICT5, FFT1, FEMO

SMJ Physical Fitness StandardsThe national minimum standards for smokejumpers are:1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes or less45 sit-ups25 pushups7 pull-ups110 lb. packout over 3 miles/level terrain/90 minutesSuccessful completion of the WCT at the arduous level.Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC)Interagency Hotshot Crews provide an organized, mobile, and skilled hand crew for all phases of wildfire suppression.IHC PolicyIHC standards provide consistent planning, funding, organization, and management of the agency IHCs. The sponsoring unit will ensure compliance with the established standards. The arduous duties, specialized assignments, and operations in a variety of geographic areas required of IHCs dictate that training, equipment, communications, transportation, organization, and operating procedures are consistent for all agency IHCs.As per agency policy all IHCs will be managed under the National Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations Guide (NIHCOG).BLM/NPS - BLM Preparedness Review Checklist #12 (Hotshot Crew) supersedes the checklist found in the NIHCOG.IHC CertificationAnnual certification of IHCs is required prior to being made available for assignment as an IHC. For certification the crew superintendent will:Submit a completed NIHCOG Appendix C to the local unit Fire Management Officer for approval.Upon approval, the local unit Fire Management Officer will submit the signed Appendix C to the State/Regional Fire Management Officer.Upon approval, the State/Regional Fire Management Officer will notify the Geographical Coordinating Committee and NICC of the crew's status.IHC OrganizationIndividual crew structure will be based on local needs using the following standard positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Squad Leader, Skilled Firefighter, and Crewmember.IHC Availability PeriodsAll IHCs must be certified annually prior to initial assignment. Submit a completed Appendix C from the NIHCOG prior to the crew being made

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1 available for any incident assignment as an IHC. The Crew Superintendent is
2 responsible to inform local supervisor and the local GACC of any required
3 changes in the crew's typing. IHCs will be available to meet or exceed
4 availability periods specified in NIHCOG 2001 (Revised 2004).
5 BLM - IHC crewmembers will receive 40 hours of basic or refresher training
6 before their first fire assignment in a fire season. Refresher training will
7 include, but is not limited to, crew safety, risk management, firefighter safety,
8 fire behavior, communications, and organization. The final responsibility for
9 crew availability will rest with the Superintendent's certification to local unit
10 management that all training is complete. The minimum tour of availability
11 excluding required training periods for BLM IHCs will be 130 calendar days for
12 crews in the lower 48 states and 90 calendar days for crews in Alaska.
13 NPS/FS - IHCs follow the NIHCOG, including minimum tours. In some
14 regions, tours may exceed the minimum based on preparedness and fuels
15 funding levels, or non-fire funding for these resources.
16
17 IHC Communications
18 IHCs will provide a minimum of five programmable multi-channel radios per
19 crew as stated in the NIHCOG.
20
21 IHC Transportation
22 Crews will be provided adequate transportation. The number of vehicles used to
23 transport a crew should not exceed five. All vehicles must adhere to the
24 certified maximum Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) limitations.
25 Other Hand Crews
26
27 Policy
28 All crews must meet minimum crew standards as defined in Appendix T as well
29 as any additional agency, state, or contractual requirements. Typing will be
30 identified at the local level with notification made to the local GACC.
31
32 Crew Types
33 Agency Crews
34 Agency hand crews consist of qualified agency personnel and are organized on a
35 local basis. These crews are designated as Type 2 or Type 2 IA.
36 State Crews
37 State crews are organized under the auspices of individual states. These crews
38 may be designated as Type 1, Type 2, or Type 2 IA. These crews include
39 organized state inmate crews.
40 Emergency Firefighter Crews (EFF)
41 These crews are usually Type 2 crews consisting of agency sponsored on call
42 personnel who meet the requirements for Type 2 IA or Type 2 as defined in
43 Appendix T.
44 Contract Crews

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These organized crews consist of personnel trained, equipped, and certified by a private contractor and must meet the contractual specifications as stated in their state or national crew contracts.

FS - The FS endorses the National Minimum Standards for crews and applies FSH 5109.17 for training requirements.

Fire Use Modules

NPS - The National Park Service has Fire Use Modules. The primary mission and priority of the modules is to provide skilled and mobile personnel to assist with Wildland Fire Use (WFU) in the areas of planning, fire behavior monitoring, ignition, and holding. Secondary priorities follow in the order below:

Support burn unit preparation.

Assist with fire effect plot work.

Support mechanical hazardous fuel reduction projects.

NPS - As an interagency resource, the modules are available nationally throughout the fire season. Each module is comprised of a module leader, assistant leader and three to eight module members. See the Fire Use Module Operation Guide for specifics. Modules are mobilized and demobilized through established ordering channels through the GACCs.

Agency Certified Positions

As a supplement to the qualifications system, certain agencies have identified the additional positions of Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 3 (RXB3) - see Chapter 17; Engine Operator (ENOP) - see Chapter 2; and Chainsaw Operators and Fallers listed below.

Chainsaw Operators and Fallers

The agencies have established the following minimum qualification and certification process for Chainsaw Operators (Incident Qualification Card certified as Faller A):

Successful completion of S-212, including the field exercise, or those portions of S-212 appropriate for Faller A duties.

Agency administrator (or delegate) certification of qualifications after verification that training is successfully completed.

Documentation must be maintained for individuals.

The individual tasks required for completion of the "A" Task Book and the final evaluation for the "A" level saw operators must be verified or signed by a qualified "B or C" level saw operator.

The individual tasks required for completion of the "B" Task Book must be evaluated by a qualified "B" or "C" level operator. The Final Evaluator

Verification for "B" level operators must be signed by a "C" level saw operator.

The individual tasks required for completion of the "C" Task Book must be evaluated by a qualified "C" level operator. The Final Evaluator Verification for "C" level operators must be signed by a state approved "C" level certifier.

- 1 Each of the states/regions will certify and maintain a list of their current “C”
- 2 class saw operators who they approve to be “C” class certifiers.
- 3 The certification of “C” class certifiers will remain the responsibility of the
- 4 agency administrator or delegate.
- 5 All fire related (Incident Qualification Carded) saw operation qualifications are
- 6 maintained through the IQCS system and will have a currency of five years.
- 7 BLM/FWS/NPS - Position task book found at:
- 8 <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/PDFs/Faller/PTBFallerABC.pdf>
- 9 FS - FS direction can be found in FSH 5109.17 and FSH 6709.11.
- 10 FWS/NPS - Reference the BLM/FWS/NPS position task book. Found at:
- 11 <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/PDFs/Faller/PTBFallerABC.pdf>
- 12 FWS/NPS - Exceptions to the above policy are:
- 13 The individual tasks required for completion of the “B” Task Book and the final
- 14 evaluation for the Class “B” saw operations must be verified by a qualified
- 15 Class “B” or “C” saw operator.
- 16 The individual tasks required for completion of the “C” Task Book and the final
- 17 evaluation for the Class “C” saw operators must be verified by a region
- 18 approved Class “C” Final Evaluator.
- 19 Each of the regions will certify and maintain a list of current, qualified Class
- 20 “B” and “C” saw operators, approved as Class “B” or “C” Final Evaluators.
- 21 The certification of “C” class evaluators will remain the responsibility of the
- 22 regional agency administrator or delegate.

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