

Chapter 07 Safety and Risk Management

Introduction

The primary means by which we prevent accidents in wildland fire operations is through aggressive risk management. Our safety philosophy acknowledges that while the ideal level of risk may be zero, a hazard free work environment is not a reasonable or achievable goal in fire operations. Through organized, comprehensive, and systematic risk management, we will determine the acceptable level of risk that allows us to provide for safety yet still achieve fire operations objectives. Risk management is intended to minimize the number of injuries or fatalities experienced by wildland firefighters.

Policy

Firefighter and public safety is our first priority. All Fire Management Plans and activities must reflect this commitment. The commitment to and accountability for safety is a joint responsibility of all firefighters, managers, and administrators. Every supervisor, employee, and volunteer is responsible for following safe work practices and procedures, as well as identifying and reporting unsafe conditions.

Agency Specific Safety Policy Documents:

- *BLM - BLM Handbook 1112-1, 1112-2*
- *FWS - Service Manual 241 FW7, Firefighting*
- *NPS - DO-50 and RM-50 Loss Control Management Guideline*
- *FS - FSH-6709.11 Health and Safety Code Handbook*

Guiding Principles

The primary means by which we implement command decisions and maintain unity of action is through the use of common principles of operations. These principles guide our fundamental wildland fire management practices, behaviors, and customs, and are mutually understood at every level of command. They include Risk Management, Standard Firefighting Orders and Watch Out Situations, LCES and the Downhill Line Construction Checklist. These principles are fundamental to how we perform fire operations, and are intended to improve decision making and firefighter safety. They are not absolute rules. They require judgment in application.

Goal

The goal of the fire safety program is to provide direction and guidance for safe and effective management in all activities. Safety is the responsibility of everyone assigned to wildland fire, and must be practiced at all operational

Release Date: January 2011

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1 levels from the national fire director, state/regional director, and unit manager to
2 employees in the field. Agency administrators need to stress that firefighter and
3 public safety always takes precedence over property and resource loss.
4 Coordination between the fire management staff and unit safety officer(s) is
5 essential in achieving this objective. For additional safety guidance and
6 reference refer to:

- 7 • *Fireline Handbook (PMS 410-1, NFES 0065).*
- 8 • *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) (PMS 461, NFES 1077).*
- 9 • *Wildland Firefighter Health & Safety Report (Annual MTDC Publication).*
- 10 • *National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NFES 2092).*

11

12 **Definitions**

13

14 **Safety:** A measure of the degree of freedom from risk or conditions that can
15 cause death, physical harm, or equipment or property damage.

16 **Hazard:** A condition or situation that exists within the working environment
17 capable of causing physical harm, injury, or damage.

18 **Risk:** The likelihood or possibility of hazardous consequences in terms of
19 severity or probability.

20 **Risk Management:** The process whereby management decisions are made and
21 actions taken concerning control of hazards and acceptance of remaining risk.

22

23 **Risk Management Process**

24

25 Fire operations risk management is outlined in the *NWCG Incident Response*
26 *Pocket Guide (IRPG)*. The five step process provides firefighters and fire
27 managers a simple, universal, and consistent way to practice risk management
28 by:

- 29 • Establishing situation awareness.
- 30 • Identifying hazards and assessing the risk.
- 31 • Controlling or eliminating hazards.
- 32 • Making go/no-go decisions based on acceptability of remaining risk.
- 33 • Evaluating effectiveness of hazard controls and continuously re-evaluating
34 situation.

35

36 **Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)/Risk Assessment (RA)**

37

38 A completed Job Hazard Analysis is required for:

- 39 • Jobs or work practices that have potential hazards.
- 40 • New, non-routine, or hazardous tasks to be performed where potential
41 hazards exist.
- 42 • Jobs that may require the employee to use non-standard personal protective
43 equipment (PPE).
- 44 • Changes in equipment, work environment, conditions, policies, or materials.

- 1 • Supervisors and appropriate line managers must ensure that established
2 JHAs are reviewed and signed prior to any non-routine task or at the
3 beginning of the fire season.
- 4 • **BLM** - A risk assessment (in lieu of JHA) must be completed for all non-
5 suppression work practices/projects that have potential hazards. Risk
6 assessments may be developed for wildland fire operational activities at the
7 local unit's discretion. Additional RA information can be obtained at:
8 <http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-700/wo740/riskmanagement.html>
9 ~~XXX [http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-700/wo740/tools/RAWorksheets/](http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-700/wo740/tools/RAWorksheets/RAWorksheet_Library.html)~~
10 ~~[RAWorksheet_Library.html](http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-700/wo740/tools/RAWorksheets/RAWorksheet_Library.html)~~

11 **Work/Rest**

12 **Work/Rest**

13

14 To assist in mitigating fatigue, days off are allowed during and after
15 assignments. ~~XXX If necessary to reduce fatigue, Type 1 or 2 Incident~~
16 ~~commanders (ICs) may recommend time off supplementary to mandatory days~~
17 ~~off. Agency Administrators (AAs) (incident host or home unit) may XXX~~
18 ~~provide authorize time off supplementary to mandatory days off requirements.~~
19 ~~XXX For Type 3-5 incidents, paid days off should be rare exceptions. However,~~
20 ~~if necessary, the agency administrator (incident host or home unit) may~~
21 ~~authorize day(s) off with pay.~~

22

23 ~~XXX The IC or AA~~ authority to grant a day off with pay lies within 5 U.S.C.
24 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, and 56 Comp. Gen. Decision 393 (1977).

- 25 • Plan for and ensure that all personnel are provided a minimum 2:1 work to
26 rest ratio (for every 2 hours of work or travel, provide 1 hour of sleep and/or
27 rest).
- 28 • Work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet
29 the 2:1 work/rest ratio should be the exception, and no work shift should
30 exceed 24 hours. However, in situations where this does occur (for
31 example, initial attack), incident management personnel will resume 2:1
32 work/rest ratio as quickly as possible.
- 33 • The incident commander or agency administrator must justify work shifts
34 that exceed 16 hours and those that do not meet 2:1 work to rest ratio.
35 Justification will be documented in the daily incident records.
36 Documentation shall include mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue.
- 37 • The Time Officer's/Unit Leader's approval of the Emergency Firefighter
38 Time Report (OF-288), or other agency pay document, certifies that the
39 required documentation is on file and no further documentation is required
40 for pay purposes.

41

42 The work/rest guidelines do not apply to aircraft pilots assigned to an incident.
43 Pilots must abide by applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
44 guidelines, or agency policy if more restrictive.

45
46

1 Length of Assignment

2

3 Assignment Definition

4 An assignment is defined as the time period (days) between the first full
5 operational period at the first incident or reporting location on the original
6 resource order and commencement of return travel to the home unit.

7

8 Length of Assignment

9 Standard assignment length is 14 days, exclusive of travel from and to home
10 unit, with possible extensions identified below. Time spent in staging and
11 preposition status counts toward the 14-day limit, regardless of pay status, for all
12 personnel, including Incident Management Teams.

13

14 Days Off

15 After completion of a 14 day assignment and return to the home unit, two
16 mandatory days off will be provided (2 after 14). Days off must occur on the
17 calendar days immediately following the return travel in order to be charged to
18 the incident. (See Section 12.1-2) (5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, and 56
19 Comp. Gen. Decision 393 (1977)). If the next day(s) upon return from an
20 incident is/are a regular work day(s), a paid day(s) off will be authorized.
21 Regulations may preclude authorizing this for non-NWCG and state/local
22 employees.

23

24 Pay entitlement, including administrative leave, for a paid day(s) off cannot be
25 authorized on the individual's regular day(s) off at their home unit. Agencies
26 will apply holiday pay regulations, as appropriate. A paid day off is recorded on
27 home unit time records according to agency requirements. Casuals (AD) are not
28 entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

29

30 Contract resources are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the
31 incident or at their point of hire.

32

33 Home unit agency administrators may authorize additional day(s) off with
34 compensation to further mitigate fatigue. If authorized, home unit program
35 funds will be used. All length of assignment rules apply to aviation resources,
36 including aircraft pilots, notwithstanding the FAA and agency day off
37 regulations.

38

39 Assignment Extension

40 Prior to assigning incident personnel to back-to-back assignments, their health,
41 readiness, and capability must be considered. The health and safety of incident
42 personnel and resources will not be compromised under any circumstance.

43 • Assignments may be extended when:

- 44 Life and property are imminently threatened.
- 45 Suppression objectives are close to being met.
- 46 A military battalion is assigned.

1 Replacement resources are unavailable, or have not yet arrived.

2

3 Upon completion of the standard 14 day assignment, an extension of up to an
4 additional 14 days may be allowed (for a total of up to 30 days, inclusive of
5 mandatory days off, and exclusive of travel). Regardless of extension duration,
6 two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment.

7

8 Contracts, Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPA), and Emergency
9 Equipment Rental Agreements (EERA) should be reviewed for appropriate pay
10 requirements and length of assignment. If the contract, (I-BPA) or EERA do not
11 address this, the incident Finance/Administration Section Chief or the
12 procurement official should be consulted as to whether compensation for a day
13 off is appropriate.

14

15 **Single Resource/Kind Extensions**

16 The section chief or incident commander will identify the need for assignment
17 extension and will obtain the affected resource's concurrence. The section chief
18 and affected resource will acquire and document the home unit supervisor's
19 approval.

20

21 The incident commander approves the extension. If a convened geographic or
22 national multi-agency coordinating group (GMAC/NMAC) directs, the incident
23 commander approves only after GMAC/NMAC concurrence.

24

25 If the potential exists for reassignment to another incident during the extension,
26 the home unit supervisor and affected resource will be advised and must concur
27 prior to reassignment.

28

29 **Incident Management Team Extensions**

30 Incident management team extensions are to be negotiated between the incident
31 agency administrator, the incident commander, and the GMAC/NMAC (if
32 directed).

33

34 **Management Directed Days Off at Home Unit**

35 Supervisors must manage work schedules for initial attack, dispatch and incident
36 support personnel during extended incident situations. During periods of non-
37 routine or extended activity, these employees will have a minimum of 1 day off
38 in any 21-day period.

39

40 **Driving Standard**

41

42 All employees driving motor vehicles are responsible for the proper care,
43 operation, maintenance and protection of the vehicle. The use of government-
44 owned, rented, or leased motor vehicles is for official business only.

45 Unauthorized use is prohibited.

46

1 General Driving Policy

- 2 ● Employees must have a valid state driver's license in their possession for
3 the appropriate vehicle class before operating the vehicle. Operating a
4 government-owned or rental vehicle without a valid state driver's license is
5 prohibited.
- 6 ● All drivers whose job duties require the use of a motor vehicle will receive
7 initial defensive driver training within three months of entering on duty and
8 refresher driver training every three years thereafter.
- 9 ● The operator and all passengers are required to wear seat belts and obey all
10 federal and state laws.
- 11 ● All traffic violations or parking tickets will be the operator's responsibility.
- 12 ● All driving requiring a CDL will be performed in accordance with
13 applicable Department of Transportation regulations.
- 14 ● Seat belts must be available and used in agency motor vehicles. Without
15 exception, seat belts must be worn at all times by motor vehicle operators
16 and passengers, regardless of the distance to be traveled or the time
17 involved. If any employee fails to fasten their seat belt while riding in a
18 vehicle on official business, they are subject to disciplinary action as
19 determined by local management.
- 20 ● Employees operating any motor vehicle with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or
21 more, towing a vehicle 10,000 pounds GVWR or more, hauling hazardous
22 material requiring the vehicle to be placarded, or transporting 16 or more
23 persons (including the driver) must possess a valid Commercial Drivers
24 License (CDL) with all applicable endorsements.
- 25 ● *BLM - All employees operating a Government motor vehicle will be
26 required to submit Form DI-131 (Application for U.S. Government Motor
27 Vehicle Operator's Identification Card) and OF-345 (Physical Fitness
28 Inquiry for Motor Vehicle Operators). When the supervisor signs the DI-
29 131, the employee is authorized to operate Government-owned or leased
30 vehicles, or privately-owned vehicles on official business. Individual office
31 forms equivalent to the OF-345 and DI-131 are acceptable.*
- 32 ● *FS - Policy requires all operators of government owned, or leased vehicles
33 to have a Forest Service issued ~~XXX identification card~~ Operator's
34 Identification Card (OF-346) indicating the type of vehicles or equipment
35 the holder is authorized and qualified to operate.*
- 36 ● *BLM/FWS/NPS - The DOI has granted wildland fire agencies a waiver to
37 allow employees between the ages of 18 and 21 to operate agency
38 commercial fire vehicles using a state issued CDL under the specific
39 conditions as stated below:*
 - 40 *Drivers with a CDL may only drive within the state that has issued the*
 - 41 *CDL and must comply with the state's special requirements and*
 - 42 *endorsements.*
 - 43 *These drivers must only drive vehicles that are equipped with visible*
 - 44 *and audible signals, and are easily recognized as fire fighting*
 - 45 *equipment. This excludes, but is not limited to, school buses used for*

1 *crew transport and “low-boy” tractor trailers used for construction*
2 *equipment transport.*
3 *Supervisors must annually establish and document that these drivers*
4 *have a valid license (i.e. that the license has not been suspended,*
5 *revoked, canceled, or that the employee has not been otherwise*
6 *unqualified from holding a license - 485 DM 16.3.B (1), ensure that the*
7 *employee has the ability to operate the vehicle(s) safely in the*
8 *operational environment assigned (485 DM 16.3.B (2), and review and*
9 *validate the employee’s driving record (485 DM 16.3.B(4)).*

11 **Non-Incident Operations Driving**

12 Refer to the current driving standards for each individual agency.

14 **Mobilization and Demobilization**

15 To manage fatigue, every effort should be made to avoid off unit (excluding IA
16 response) mobilization and demobilization travel between 2200 hrs and 0500
17 hrs.

19 **Incident Operations Driving**

20 This policy addresses driving by personnel actively engaged in wildland fire
21 suppression or all-risk activities; these include driving while assigned to a
22 specific incident (check-in to check-out) or during initial attack fire response
23 (includes time required to control the fire and travel to a rest location).

- 24 • Agency resources assigned to an incident or engaged in initial attack fire
25 response will adhere to the current agency work/rest policy for determining
26 length of duty day.
- 27 • No driver will drive more than 10 hours (behind the wheel) within any duty-
28 day.
- 29 • Multiple drivers in a single vehicle may drive up to the duty-day limitation
30 provided no driver exceeds the individual driving (behind the wheel) time
31 limitation of 10 hours.
- 32 • A driver shall drive only if they have had at least 8 consecutive hours off
33 duty before beginning a shift. Exception to the minimum off-duty hour
34 requirement is allowed when essential to:
 - 35 Accomplish immediate and critical suppression objectives.
 - 36 Address immediate and critical firefighter or public safety issues.
- 37 • As stated in the current agency work/rest policy, documentation of
38 mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue is required for drivers who
39 exceed 16 hour work shifts. This is required regardless of whether the
40 driver was still compliant with the 10 hour individual (behind the wheel)
41 driving time limitations.
- 42 • *FWS/NPS - Program funds are authorized to pay for the cost of CDL*
43 *licensing fees and exams, necessary for employees to operate fire*
44 *equipment, with one exception. That exception involves those cases where*
45 *a test has been failed and must be retaken, in which case the employee will*
46 *be responsible for costs associated with additional testing.*

1 Fire Vehicle Operation Standards

2 Operators of all vehicles must abide by state traffic regulations. Operation of all
3 vehicles will be conducted within the limits specified by the manufacturer.
4 Limitations based on tire maximum speed ratings and Gross Vehicle Weight
5 restrictions must be followed. It is the vehicle operator's responsibility to
6 ensure vehicles abide by these and any other limitations specified by agency or
7 state regulations.

8

9 **XXX Wildland Fire Field Attire**

10

11 Polyester, polypropylene, and nylon materials are not to be worn, because most
12 synthetic fibers melt when exposed to flame or extreme radiant heat. Personnel
13 should wear only undergarments made of 100 percent **XXX or the highest**
14 **possible content of** natural fibers, aramid, or other **XXX fire flame-resistant**
15 materials.

16

17 Aramid clothing should be cleaned or replaced whenever soiled, especially
18 when soiled with petroleum products. Aramid clothing will be replaced when
19 the fabric is so worn as to reduce the protection capability of the garment or is so
20 faded as to significantly reduce the desired visibility qualities.

21

22 Any modification to personal protective equipment that reduces its protection
23 capability such as iron-on logos, and sagging of pants, is an unacceptable
24 practice and will not be allowed on fires.

25

26 **Wildland Fire Boot Standard**

27 Personnel assigned to wildland fires must wear a minimum of 8-inch high, lace-
28 type exterior leather work boots with Vibram-type, melt-resistant soles. The 8-
29 inch height requirement is measured from the bottom of the heel to the top of the
30 boot. Alaska is exempt from the Vibram-type sole requirement. All boots that
31 meet the footwear standard as described above are authorized for firefighting.

32

33 The boots are a condition of employment for firefighting positions and are
34 purchased by the employee prior to employment.

- 35 • *FWS - Red carded FWS firefighters will be provided a set amount of station*
36 *funding (as determined by each region), toward the purchase of approved*
37 *wildland fire boots, not more than once every three years. Emergency or*
38 *casual firefighters will provide their own boots.*
- 39 • *NPS - Government funds will be utilized for purchase of wildland fire boots*
40 *for those employees currently red carded/certified in positions which*
41 *require wildland and prescribed fireline duties. The individual employee*
42 *must be available to perform those duties when assigned; if not routinely*
43 *available for park fire assignments, **XXX FIREPRO fire** funds should not*
44 *be used to purchase boots for that employee.*
- 45 • *NPS - **XXX FIREPRO Fire** funds, not to exceed \$100 a pair, may be used*
46 *to purchase or repair boots. Other government funds, such as from safety,*

- 1 protection or maintenance accounts, may also be used for purchase or to
2 augment **XXX FIREPRO** fire funds, dependent on local management
3 direction. Costs to repair boots not damaged on fire should be charged to
4 other appropriate accounts.
- 5 • **NPS** - It is the responsibility of the local FMO to determine those
6 employees requiring boots **XXX personal protective equipment** and the
7 frequency of necessary replacement or repair. Boots will be considered
8 similar to uniform items and will not be subject to cache item return, due to
9 health, sanitation, and individual sizing considerations.

10 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

12
13 All personnel are required to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
14 appropriate for their duties and/or as identified in JHAs/RAs. Employees must
15 be trained to use safety equipment effectively. PPE devices will be used only
16 when equipment guards, engineering controls, or management control do not
17 adequately protect employees.

18 Required Fireline PPE includes:

- 19 • ~~XXX Wildland fire boots~~
- 20 • Fire shelter
- 21 • Hard hat with chinstrap
- 22 • Goggles/safety glasses as identified by JHAs/RAs)
- 23 • Ear plugs/hearing protection
- 24 • Yellow **XXX long-sleeved** aramid shirt
- 25 • Aramid trousers
- 26 • Leather **XXX or leather/flamm resistant combination** gloves. **XXX Flight**
27 gloves are not approved for fireline use.
- 28 • **XXX Wear** Additional PPE as identified by local conditions, material safety
29 data sheet (MSDS), or JHA/RA

30
31
32 **XXX FS-** *Shirt, trousers, and gloves used by USFS personnel must meet*
33 *Forest Service specification 5100-91 (shirt), 5100-92 (trousers), 6170-5*
34 *(gloves), or be certified to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)*
35 *1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire*
36 *Fighting.*

37 Fire Shelters

38
39 **XXX Replaced with text below for clarity.** Fire shelters will be issued and
40 carried in a readily accessible manner by all line personnel. Firefighters will
41 inspect their fire shelters at the beginning of each fire season and periodically
42 throughout the year, to ensure they are serviceable. New generation fire shelters
43 are required for all wildland firefighters as of January 1, 2010. For more
44 information refer to http://www.nife.gov/fire_equipment/fire_shelter.htm

1 The deployment of shelters is to be viewed as a last resort, and will not be used
2 as a tactical tool. Supervisors and firefighters must never rely on fire shelters
3 instead of using well defined escape routes and safety zones. When deployed
4 on a fire, fire shelters will be left in place if it is safe to do so and not be
5 removed pending approval of authorized investigators.

6
7 Training in inspection and deployment of new generation fire shelters will be
8 provided prior to issuance.

9
10 Training shelters will be deployed at required Annual Fireline Safety Refresher
11 Training. No live fire exercises for the purpose of fire shelter deployment
12 training will be conducted.

13
14 XXX New Generation Fire Shelters (M-2002, Forest Service Specification
15 5100-606) are required for all wildland firefighters. For more information refer
16 to http://www.nifc.gov/fire_equipment/fire_shelter.htm

17
18 Training in inspection and deployment of new generation fire shelters will be
19 provided prior to issuance. Firefighters will inspect their fire shelters at the
20 beginning of each fire season and periodically throughout the year, to ensure
21 they are serviceable.

22
23 Training shelters will be deployed at required Annual Fireline Safety Refresher
24 Training. No live fire exercises for the purpose of fire shelter deployment
25 training will be conducted.

26
27 Fire shelters will be carried in a readily accessible manner by all line personnel.
28 The deployment of shelters will not be used as a tactical tool. Supervisors and
29 firefighters must never rely on fire shelters instead of using well-defined escape
30 routes and safety zones. When deployed on a fire, fire shelters will be left in
31 place if it is safe to do so and not be removed pending approval of authorized
32 investigators. Firefighters must report the shelter deployment incident to their
33 supervisor as soon as possible.

34 35 **Head Protection**

36 Personnel must be equipped with hard hats and wear them at all times while on
37 the fireline. Hard hats must be equipped with a chinstrap, which must be
38 fastened while riding in, or in the vicinity of, helicopters.

39 Acceptable hardhats for fireline use are:

- 40 • “Helmet, Safety, Plastic” (NFES #0109, NSN 8415-01-055-2265) listed in
41 *NWCG National Fire Equipment System Catalog: Part 1, Fire Supplies and*
42 *Equipment*, or
- 43 • equivalent hardhat meeting the ~~XXX National Fire Protection Association~~
44 *(NFPA) 1977 Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland*
45 *Fire Fighting* requirements, or

- 1 • XXX equivalent hardhat meeting ANSI Z89.1-2003 Type 1, Class G or
2 ANSI Z89.1-2009 Type 1, Class G.
3
4 Hard hats consist of two components - the shell and the suspension - which work
5 together as a system. Alteration of either of these components compromises the
6 effectiveness of the system (e.g. wearing hardhat backwards) and is not allowed.
7 Both components require periodic inspection and maintenance. XXX The
8 useful service life begins when the hardhat is put into service, not the
9 manufacture date specified on the hardhat. Specific inspection and maintenance
10 instructions are found in Missoula Technology and Development Center
11 (MTDC) Tech Tip publication, *Your Hardhat: Inspection and Maintenance*
12 (0267-2331-MTDC).
13 <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm02672331/index.htm>.

14 **Eye and Face Protection**

- 15 The following positions require the wearing of eye protection (meets *ANSI*
16 *Z87.1* Standards):
17 • Nozzle operator
18 • Chainsaw operator/faller
19 • Helibase and ramp personnel
20 • Wildland fire chemical mixing personnel
21 • Other duties may require eye protection as identified in a specific JHA/RA
22
23 Full face protection in the form of a face shield in compliance with *ANSI Z87.1*
24 shall be worn when working in any position where face protection has been
25 identified as required in the job specific JHA/RA: Batch Mixing for Terra-
26 Torch®, power sharpener operators, etc.
27

28 **Hearing Protection**

- 29 Personnel who are exposed to a noise level in excess of 85db must be provided
30 with, and wear, hearing protection. This includes, but is not limited to:
31 • Chainsaw operators/fallers.
32 • Pump operators.
33 • Helibase and aircraft ramp personnel.
34 • Wildland fire chemical mixing personnel.
35 • Any other personnel exposed on a regular basis to damaging noise levels.
36
37 Other duties may require hearing protection as identified in a specific JHA/RA.
38
39 Employees may be required to be placed under a hearing conservation program
40 as required by *29 CFR 1910.95*. Consult with local safety & health personnel
41 for specifics regarding unit hearing conservation program.
42 • *DOI - Employees may be placed under a hearing conservation program as*
43 *identified in approved Medical Standards Program waivers XXX with*
44 *restrictions or risk mitigation decision memorandum.*
45

1 Neck Protection

2 Face and neck shrouds are not required PPE. The use of shrouds is not required
3 and should be as a result of onsite risk analysis. ~~XXX However, If used, face and~~
4 neck shrouds shall meet the requirements of FS specification 5100-601 or *NFPA*
5 *1977 Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire*
6 *Fighting*.

7
8 Shrouds should be positioned in a manner that allows for immediate use. For
9 additional information see MTDC Tech Tip *Improved Face and Neck Shroud*
10 *for Wildland Firefighters, 2004* (0451-2323-MTDC).

11 ~~XXX <http://www.nife.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.~~
12 ~~<http://fsweb.mtdc wo.fs.fed.us/pubs/htmlpubs/htm04512323/index.htm>~~

14 Leg Protection

15 All chainsaw operators will wear chainsaw chaps meeting ~~XXX *NFPA 1977,*~~
16 ~~*Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting or*~~
17 ~~the United States Forest Service Specification 6170-4F XXX or 4G. XXX All~~
18 ~~previous Forest Service specification chainsaw chaps must be removed from~~
19 ~~service. XXX Chaps meeting United States Forest Service Specification 6170-4E~~
20 ~~must be replaced with chaps meeting United States Forest Service Specification~~
21 ~~6170-4F by January 1, 2011. Chainsaw chaps shall be maintained in~~
22 accordance with MTDC Publication, *Inspecting and Repairing Your Chainsaw*
23 *Chaps - User Instructions* (0567-2816-MTDC) ~~XXX and MTDC Safety Alert~~
24 ~~2009-01, June 29, 2009. <http://www.nife.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.~~
25 ~~<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm05672816/page01.htm>~~

27 Respiratory Protection

28 ~~XXX The use of any respiratory protection, (e.g., dust masks, half mask~~
29 ~~respirators, SCBA) must be in compliance with agency safety and health~~
30 ~~regulations and *OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134.*~~
31 Personal protective equipment, including respiratory protection, should only be
32 implemented once engineering and administrative controls are exhausted. The
33 need for respiratory protection during wildland fire operations must be
34 determined by each agency. The requirements for respirator use are found in 29
35 CFR Part 1910.134.

36
37 Only NIOSH-approved respirators shall be used. Several respiratory-type
38 products are marketed to wildland firefighters but are not NIOSH-approved (e.g.
39 shrouds with filtration devices).

- 40 ● ~~XXX *BLM/FWS/NPS - Managers and supervisors will not knowingly place*~~
41 ~~*wildland firefighters in positions where exposure to noxious gases or*~~
42 ~~*chemicals would require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.*~~
- 43 ● *FS - FSM - 5135.3 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus - Wildland*
44 *firefighters may use only SCBA which are compliant with NFPA 1981,*
45 *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for*
46 *Emergency Services. SCBA may only be used when contaminants from*

1 vehicle, dump, structure, or other non-wildland fuel fire cannot be avoided
2 while meeting wildland fire suppression objectives (29 CFR 1910.134,
3 Respiratory Protection). If such an apparatus is not available, avoid
4 exposure to smoke from these sources. The acquisition, training, proper
5 use, employee health surveillance programs, inspection, storage, and
6 maintenance of respiratory protection equipment must comply with
7 applicable National Fire Protection Association standards and 29 CFR
8 1910.134, and be justified by a Job Hazard Analysis. Where the acquisition
9 and use of an SCBA is approved, it may be carried only on a fire engine and
10 its use must be consistent with FSM 5130 ~~XXX .2 and FSM 5130.3.~~

11 **Specialized or Non Standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

12 Specialized PPE not routinely supplied by the agency required to perform a task
13 safely must be ordered in accordance with agency direction.

14
15
16 A JHA/Risk Assessment must be completed and reviewed by the Unit Safety
17 Officer and the supervisor's approval is required. Items must meet agency and
18 industry standards for specific intended use. Cold weather flame resistant outer
19 wear shall be in compliance with NFPA 1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing*
20 *and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*. All cold weather inner wear should
21 be composed of 100% ~~XXX or the highest possible content of~~ natural fibers
22 (cotton, wool or silk) or other flame resistant material such as aramid.

23 **High Visibility Vests**

24 In order to meet 23 CFR ~~XXX 634 655~~, high visibility apparel should be worn
25 whenever a firefighter is working on or in the right of way of a public roadway.
26 ~~XXX unless there is a reasonable chance that the employee will be exposed to~~
27 ~~flames, high heat or hazardous materials, or if the safety apparel hinders the~~
28 ~~firefighter's ability to do his or her job.~~

29 The high visibility safety apparel should not be worn if:

- 30 • There is a reasonable chance that the employee may be exposed to flames,
31 high heat or hazardous materials.
- 32 • The high visibility garment hinders an employee's ability to do their job
33 because it prevents necessary motion or because it limits access to
34 necessary equipment such as radios or fire shelters.

35
36
37 Employees must wear high visibility safety apparel that meets ANSI/ISEA 107
38 ~~XXX-2004~~, Class 2 or 3, ~~XXX or ANSI/ISEA 207-2006~~.

39 Apparel, ~~XXX including vests~~, that meets ANSI/ISEA 107 ~~XXX-2004 and~~
40 ~~ANSI/ISEA 207-2006~~ currently does not meet the flame resistance requirements
41 of the NFPA Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire
42 Fighting.

43 **Fireline Safety**

44 **Incident Briefings**

45
46 Release Date: January 2011

07-13

1 Fire managers must ensure that safety briefings are occurring throughout the fire
2 organization, and that safety factors are addressed through the IC or their
3 designee and communicated to all incident personnel at operational briefings.
4 The identification and location of escape routes and safety zones must be
5 stressed. A briefing checklist can be found in the *Incident Response Pocket*
6 *Guide (IRPG)*.

8 **LCES - A System for Operational Safety**

9 LCES will be used in all operational briefings and tactical operations as per the
10 *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*.

- 11 • L - Lookout(s)
- 12 • C - Communication(s)
- 13 • E - Escape Route(s)
- 14 • S - Safety Zone(s)

16 **Incident Safety Oversight**

17 XXX Agency administrators must be actively involved in the management of
18 wildland fires, and personally visit an appropriate number of escaped fires each
19 year.

20 XXX Agency administrators are responsible for safety oversight, and may
21 request additional safety oversight as needed.

22 Agency administrators and/or fire managers may request additional safety
23 oversight when Examples may include:

- 24 • A fire escapes initial attack or when extended attack is probable.
- 25 • There is complex or critical fire behavior.
- 26 • There is a complex air operation.
- 27 • The fire is in an urban intermix/interface.
- 28 • XXX Other extraordinary circumstances.

29
30 Every individual has the right to turn down unsafe assignments. When an
31 individual feels an assignment is unsafe they also have the obligation to identify,
32 to the degree possible, safety alternatives for completing that assignment. The
33 IRPG contains a process for How to Properly Refuse Risk.

35 **Location of Fire Camps and Plans to Remain in Place**

36 Fire camps should be located in areas that will service the incident for the long
37 term without having to relocate. Due to such factors as extreme fire behaviors,
38 fire camp locations might be compromised. Incident commanders are to be
39 especially vigilant to quickly identify situations that may put their fire camp(s)
40 or any other adjacent fire camps in jeopardy. As such, planning for evacuation
41 and/ or remain in place actions should be considered. Evacuation plans at a
42 minimum shall include:

- 43 • Documented risk assessment
- 44 • Trigger points
- 45 • Egress routes

- 1 • Transportation for all personnel
- 2 • Accountability for all personnel
- 3 • Those individuals not meeting 310-1 qualifications will be considered
- 4 escorted visitors as addressed elsewhere in this chapter.
- 5 • *FS - Plans, at a minimum shall also include:*
- 6 • *ICP protection strategy referenced in the IAP.*
- 7 *Live-ability considerations including air quality, functionality of*
- 8 *location and facilities, and safety factors for post burn conditions.*
- 9

10 **XXX Emergency Medical Planning and Services**

11

12 **XXX Incident Emergency Management Planning**

13 XXX To achieve successful medical response within incident management,
14 agency home units will take the necessary steps to ensure incidents of all
15 complexity levels have an Incident Emergency Plan, standardized
16 communication center protocols, and an incident medical plan that satisfies the
17 requirements found in NWCG memo number 025-2010
18 (<http://www.nwcg.gov/general/memos/nwcg-025-2010.html>). This will include
19 an expanded block eight of the ICS-206, Medical Plan form, detailing available
20 resources (ground and air), roles, responsibilities, and hazard mitigations.

21

22

23 **XXX Air Ambulance Coordination**

24 Unit and state/regional level fire program managers should ensure that
25 procedures, processes, and/or agreements for use of local and regional air
26 ambulance services are stated in writing and effectively coordinated between the
27 fire programs, the dispatch/logistics centers, and the service providers.

28

29 **XXX Incident Emergency Medical Services**

30 Agencies will follow interim NWCG minimum standards for incident
31 emergency medical services as defined in appendix L (NWCG#011-2208) to
32 assist wildland fire incident commanders with determining the level and number
33 of emergency medical resources and related supplies needed based upon the
34 number of incident personnel. This standard as well as other incident medical
35 information can be found on the NWCG Incident Emergency Medical
36 Subcommittee website at:
37 <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/index.html>

38
39 Incidents that have established Medical Units shall follow the direction as
40 outlined in *Interim NWCG Minimum Standards for Medical Units Managed By*
41 *NWCG Member Agencies*
42 [http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/policyguides/minimum_stds_for_](http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/policyguides/minimum_stds_for_medical_units.pdf)
43 [medical_units.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/policyguides/minimum_stds_for_medical_units.pdf)

44
45 Home units that choose to utilize and support higher level medical responders to
46 provide medical support for internal agency medical emergencies (beyond basic

1 first aid/CPR) may do so; however, certification and credentialing must follow
2 respective state laws and protocols.

3

4 **Standard Safety Flagging**

5

6 The NWCG recommends the following Safety Zone/Escape Route flagging for
7 wildland fire activities:

- 8 • Hot-pink flagging marked “Escape Route” (NFES 0566). Crews with
9 colorblind members may wish to carry and utilize fluorescent chartreuse
10 flagging (NFES #2396).
- 11 • Hazards. Yellow with black diagonal stripes, 1 inch wide (NFES 0267). If
12 the above recommendation is not utilized on an incident, the incident will
13 need to identify the selected color and it make known to all firefighters.

14

15 **Unexploded Ordnance**

16

17 General guidance is as follows: If Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) is suspected,
18 do not enter the area. Small arms (rifle and shotgun) munitions areas should be
19 flagged and avoided by fire personnel. For suspected larger munitions, the area
20 must be avoided by fire personnel and contact local law enforcement bomb
21 squad or nearest Department of Defense agency. Each unit will determine
22 which employees are authorized to enter known or potential hazardous
23 substance release sites, and the responsibility for these determinations remains
24 with each agency administrator. For additional UXO safety information, see
25 current IRPG.

26

27 **Hazardous Materials**

28

29 Employees that discover any unauthorized waste dump or spill site that contains
30 indicators of potential hazardous substances (e.g, containers of unknown
31 substances, pools of unidentifiable liquids, piles of unknown solid materials,
32 unusual odors, or any materials out of place or not associated with an authorized
33 activity) should take the following precautions:

34 Follow the procedures in the IRPG.

35

- 36 • Treat each site as if it contains harmful materials.
- 37 • Do not handle, move, or open any container, breathe vapors, or make
38 contact with the material.
- 39 • Move a safe distance upwind from the site.
- 40 • Contact appropriate personnel. Generally, this is the Hazardous Materials
41 Coordinator for the local office.
- 42 • Firefighters need to immediately report H₂S or potential exposure and seek
43 immediate medical care.
- 44 • *BLM/FWS/NPS - Agencies require that all field personnel complete a First
Responder Awareness training. Firefighters are required to take an annual
refresher for Hazardous Material protocol.*

- 1 The following general safety rules shall be observed when working with
2 chemicals:
- 3 • Read and understand the Material Safety Data Sheets.
 - 4 • Keep the work area clean and orderly.
 - 5 • Use the necessary safety equipment.
 - 6 • Label every container with the identity of its contents and appropriate
7 hazard warnings.
 - 8 • Store incompatible chemicals in separate areas.
 - 9 • Substitute less toxic materials whenever possible.
 - 10 • Limit the volume of volatile or flammable material to the minimum needed
11 for short operation periods.
 - 12 • Provide means of containing the material if equipment or containers should
13 break or spill their contents.

15 **Responding to Wildland Fires in or near Oil/Gas Operations**

16 For those offices with oil and gas operations within their fire suppression
17 jurisdiction, the following is the minimum standard operating procedures to help
18 ensure the health and safety of wildland firefighters:

- 19 • Firefighters shall receive annual oil and gas hazard recognition and
20 mitigation training.
- 21 • Local unit shall complete a JHA/RA for wildland fire suppression activities
22 in oil and gas areas and provide a copy with a briefing to all local and
23 incoming resources. See WFSTAR website for example of a RA.
24 <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.
- 25 • Establish Response Protocols which includes notification procedures to
26 respective oil and gas company(s).
- 27 • Ensure oil and gas resource advisors are consulted.
- 28 • Ensure that at least one member of each squad or engine crew is
29 knowledgeable in the use and data interpretation of the Hydrogen Sulfide
30 gas monitor. Training on the device will include at a minimum:
31 Equipment charging and maintenance of sensors
32 Startup, zeroing, calibration and bump testing procedures as
33 recommended by the manufacturer.
34 How the monitor elicits a warning alarm (visual, auditory, vibration)
- 35 • Understand Peak Reading, Short Term Exposure Limits (STEL), and Time
36 Weighted Averages.
37 Understand how to set the monitors alarm threshold.
- 38 • The monitor's alarm shall be set at the current American Conference on
39 Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value (10
40 PPM 2008) and STEL (15 PPM 2008).
- 41 • If hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) is encountered, immediately disengage and
42 leave area.
- 43 • Do not establish incident base camps or staging areas in or near oil and gas
44 operations.

45

1 The following websites provide additional information and training recourses:

- 2 • http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/oil_gas.htm
- 3 • <http://iirdb.wildfirelessons.net/main/Reviews.aspx>

5 **Responding to Wildland Fires in or Near Radioactive Locations**

6 Abandoned uranium mines and other potential radioactive sites exist in many
7 areas of public lands. When these areas are identified, local management should
8 provide information and direction on operations to be used. General knowledge
9 and understanding of potential radiation exposure is necessary for wildland fire
10 program management to make valid risk management decisions in these areas.

11 The following websites provide this information and general guidelines:

- 12 • http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red_book/doc/RadiationDocument.pdf
- 13 • http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red_book/doc/RadiationGuidance.pdf

15 **XXX Management Controls to Mitigate Exposure**

16
17 Agency safety and health policy states that personal protective equipment (PPE)
18 devices will be used only when equipment guards, engineering controls, or
19 management control does not adequately protect employees. To meet this
20 requirement:

- 21 • Managers and supervisors will not knowingly place wildland firefighters in
22 positions where exposure to toxic gases or chemicals XXX that cannot be
23 mitigated and would require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- 24 • Managers will not sign cooperative fire protection agreements that would
25 commit wildland firefighters to situations where exposure to toxic gases or
26 chemicals would require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- 27 • Managers will avoid giving the appearance that their wildland fire
28 suppression resources are trained and equipped to perform structure,
29 vehicle, and dump fire suppression, to respond to hazardous materials
30 releases, or to perform emergency medical response XXX for the public.

32 **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide**

33 Site specific hazards and mitigations need to be identified to reduce firefighter
34 exposure to smoke and potential carbon monoxide.

36 **Six Minutes for Safety Training**

37
38 It is recommended that daily Six Minutes for Safety training be conducted that
39 focuses on high-risk, low frequency activities that fire personnel may encounter
40 during a fire season. A daily national Six Minutes for Safety briefing can be
41 found at: http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php or the National
42 Situation Report.

44 **Safety for Non-Operational Personnel Visiting Fires**

1 A wide variety of personnel such as agency administrators, other agency
2 personnel, dignitaries, members of the news media, etc may visit incidents. The
3 following standards apply to all visitors.

4

5 **Visits to an Incident Base**

6 Recommended **XXX PPE field attire** for visits to incident base camps and other
7 non-fireline field locations:

- 8 • Lace-up, closed toe shoes/boots with traction soles and ankle support.
- 9 • **XXX Long** trousers.
- 10 • Long-sleeve shirt.
- 11 • For agency personnel, the field uniform is appropriate.

12

13 **Visits to the Fireline/RX Burns**

14 Visits to the fireline must have the approval of the IC/Burn Boss.

- 15 • Visitors must maintain communications with the DIVS or appropriate
16 fireline supervisor of the area they are visiting.

17 • Required PPE:

- 18 • **XXX Wildland fire boots**
- 19 • Yellow **XXX long-sleeved** aramid shirts.
- 20 • Aramid trousers.
- 21 • Hard hat with chinstrap.
- 22 • Leather **XXX or leather/flame resistant combination** gloves. **XXX Flight**
23 **gloves are not approved for fireline use.**
- 24 • Fire shelter.

25

26 **XXX Required field attire:**

- 27 • Boots that meet the wildland fire boot standard
- 28 • **XXX Undergarments made of 100 percent or the highest possible content of**
29 **natural fibers, aramid, or other flame-resistant materials.**

30

31 Required equipment/supplies:

- 32 • Hand tool.
- 33 • Water canteen.

34

35 **XXX Visits to the Fireline**

36

37 Visitors to the Fireline/RX Burns may be “Non-Escorted” or “Escorted”
38 depending on the following requirements:

39

40 **Non-Escorted Visits**

41 Visitors must have a minimum physical fitness level of “light”.

- 42 • Must have adequate communications and radio training.

43 • Completed the following training:

- 44 • Introduction to Fire Behavior (S-190).
- 45 • Firefighter Training (S-130).

- 1 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training.
- 2 • Deviation from this requirement must be approved by the IC for other non-
- 3 escorted support personnel involved in vehicle operations or other support
- 4 functions on established roadways and working in areas which pose no fire
- 5 behavior threat.
- 6 • ~~XXX BLM/FWS~~ The law enforcement physical fitness standard is accepted
- 7 as equivalent to a “light” WCT work category.

9 **Escorted Visits**

10 All non-incident, non-agency, visitors lacking the above training and physical

11 requirements must be escorted while on the fireline.

- 12 • Visitors must receive training in the proper use of PPE.
- 13 • Requirement for hand tool and water to be determined by escort.
- 14 • Visitors must be able to walk in mountainous terrain and be in good
- 15 physical condition with no known limiting conditions.
- 16 • Escorts must be minimally qualified ~~XXX at the as~~ Single Resource Boss.
- 17 Any deviation from this requirement must be approved by the IC.

19 **Helicopter Observation Flights**

20 Visitors who take helicopter flights to observe fires must receive a passenger

21 briefing and meet the following requirements:

- 22 • Required PPE:
- 23 Flight helmet
- 24 Leather boots
- 25 ~~XXX Fire-Flame-resistant~~ clothing
- 26 All leather or leather and aramid gloves

27

28 Occasional passengers/visitors have no training requirement, but a qualified

29 flight manager must supervise loading and unloading of passengers.

31 **Fixed-Wing Observation Flights**

- 32 • Required PPE:
- 33 • No PPE is required for visitors and agency personnel who take fixed-wing
- 34 flights to observe fires. However, a passenger briefing is required, and the
- 35 flight level must not drop below 500 feet AGL.

37 **SAFENET**

38

39 SAFENET is a form, process, and method for reporting and resolving safety

40 concerns encountered in any aspect (e.g., preparedness, training, etc.) of

41 wildland fire or all hazard incident management. The information provided on

42 the form will provide important, safety-related data to the National Interagency

43 Fire Center, and determine long-term trends and problem areas.

44 The objectives of the form and process are:

- 1 • To provide immediate reporting and correction of unsafe situations or close
- 2 calls in wildland fire.
- 3 • To provide a means of sharing safety information throughout the fire
- 4 community.
- 5 • To provide long-term data that will assist in identifying trends.
- 6 • Primarily intended for wildland and prescribed fire situations, however,
- 7 SAFENET can be used for training and all hazard events.

8
9 Individuals who observe or who are involved in an unsafe situation shall initiate
10 corrective actions if possible, and then report the occurrence using SAFENET.
11 You are encouraged, but not required, to put your name on the report.
12 Prompt replies to the originator (if name provided), timely action to correct the
13 problem, and discussion of filed SAFENETs at local level meetings encourage
14 program participation and active reporting.

15
16 SAFENET is not the only way to correct a safety-related concern and it does not
17 replace accident reporting or any other valid agency reporting method. It is an
18 efficient way to report a safety concern. It is also a way for front line
19 firefighters to be involved in the daily job of being safe and keeping others safe,
20 by documenting and helping to resolve safety issues. SAFENETs may be filed:

- 21 • electronically at <http://safenet.nifc.gov>
- 22 • verbally by telephone at 1-888-670-3938.

23 24 **Accident/Injury Reporting**

25
26 The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates that all
27 accidents and injuries be reported in a timely manner. This is important for the
28 following reasons:

- 29 • To protect and compensate employees for incidents that occur on-the-job.
- 30 • To assist supervisors and safety managers in taking corrective actions and
- 31 establish safer work procedures.
- 32 • To determine if administrative controls or personal protective equipment are
- 33 needed to prevent a future incident of the same or similar type.
- 34 • To provide a means for trend analysis.

35
36 Employees are required to immediately report to their supervisor every job-
37 related accident. Managers and supervisors shall ensure that an appropriate
38 level of investigation is conducted for each accident and record all personal
39 injuries and property damage. Coordinate with your human resources office or
40 administrative personnel to complete appropriate Officer of Worker's
41 Compensation (OWCP) forms. Reporting is the responsibility of the injured
42 employee's home unit regardless of where the accident or injury occurred.

- 43 • *DOI- employees will report accidents using the Safety Management*
- 44 *Information System (SMIS) at <https://www.smis.doi.gov/>. Supervisors*

- 1 *shall complete SMIS report within six working days after the*
2 *accident/injury.*
- 3 • *FS- employees will use the Safety and Health Information Portal System*
4 *(SHIPS) through the Forest Service Dashboard XXX at*
5 *http://fswweb.asc.fs.fed.us/HRM/owcp/WorkersComp_index.php*

7 **Required Treatment for Burn Injuries**

8

9 The following standards will be used when any firefighter sustains burn injuries,
10 regardless of agency jurisdiction.

11

12 After on-site medical response, initial medical stabilization, and evaluation are
13 completed; the agency administrator or designee having jurisdiction for the
14 incident and/or firefighter representative (e.g. Crew Boss, Medical Unit Leader,
15 Compensations for Injury Specialist, etc.) should coordinate with the attending
16 physician to ensure that a firefighter whose injuries meet any of the following
17 burn injury criteria is immediately referred to the nearest regional burn center. It
18 is imperative that action is expeditious, as burn injuries are often difficult to
19 evaluate and may take 72 hours to manifest themselves. These criteria are based
20 upon American Burn Association criteria as warranting immediate referral to an
21 accredited burn center.

22

23 The decision to refer the firefighter to a regional burn center is made directly by
24 the attending physician or may be requested of the physician by the agency
25 administrator or designee having jurisdiction and/or firefighter representative.
26 The agency administrator or designee for the incident will coordinate with the
27 employee's home unit to identify a Workers Compensation liaison to assist the
28 injured employee with workers compensation claims and procedures.

29

30 Workers Compensation benefits may be denied in the event that the attending
31 physician does not agree to refer the firefighter to a regional burn center. During
32 these rare events, close consultation must occur between the attending physician,
33 the firefighter, the agency administrator or designee and/or firefighter
34 representative, and the firefighter's physician to assure that the best possible
35 care for the burn injuries is provided.

36

37 **Burn Injury Criteria**

- 38 • Partial thickness burns (second degree) involving greater than 5% Total
39 Body Surface Area (TBSA).
- 40 • Burns (second degree) involving the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum,
41 or major joints.
- 42 • Third-degree burns of any size are present.
- 43 • Electrical burns, including lightning injury are present.
- 44 • Inhalation injury is suspected.
- 45 • Burns are accompanied by traumatic injury (such as fractures).

- 1 • Individuals are unable to immediately return to full duty.
- 2 • When there is any doubt as to the severity of the burn injury, the
- 3 recommended action should be to facilitate the immediate referral and
- 4 transport of the firefighter to the nearest burn center.

5
6 A list of burn care facilities can be found at:

7 <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/im.html>. XXX Fix link, new one
8 coming..

9
10 For additional NWCG incident emergency medical information see:

11 XXX <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/iemtg/index.html>
12 <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/index.html>

13 14 **Critical Incident Management**

15
16 The NWCG has published the *Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical*
17 *Incident Management* (PMS 926). This guide is designed as a working tool to
18 assist agency administrators with the chronological steps in managing a critical
19 incident. This document includes a series of checklists which outlines agency
20 administrators and other functional area's oversight and responsibilities. The
21 guide is not intended to replace local emergency plans or other specific guidance
22 that may be available, but should be used in conjunction with existing SOPs.

23 Local units should complete the guide and review and update at least annually.

24 This guide is only available electronically at:

25 <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm>.

26 27 **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)**

28
29 A critical incident may be defined as a fatality or other event that can have
30 serious long term affects on the agency, its employees and their families or the
31 community. Such an event may warrant stress management assistance. The
32 local agency administrator may choose to provide CISM for personnel having
33 been exposed to a traumatic event.

34
35 The availability of CISM teams and related resources (e.g. defusing teams)
36 varies constantly - it is imperative that local units pre-identify CISM resources
37 that can support local unit needs. XXX Some incident management teams
38 include personnel trained in CISM who can provide assistance. Further
39 information is provided in appendix Q.

40
41
42 XXX Some incident management teams have Human Resource Specialists
43 (HRSP) XXX on their teams who may be able to assist local units with CISM
44 needs. who are trained to provide CISM support and coordination for IMTs and
45 local units.