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Chapter 02 BLM Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Organization and Responsibilities

Introduction

This chapter states, references, or supplements policy for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fire and Aviation Program Management. These standards are based on Department of Interior (DOI) and Bureau policy. They are intended to ensure safe, consistent, efficient, and effective fire and aviation operations for a fire organization to manage state and/or local unit fire workload or meet approved national program resource allocations. BLM employees engaged in fire management activities (including fire program management, fire suppression, and fire program/incident support) will adhere to the standards in this document. This chapter will be reviewed and updated annually.

BLM Fire Operations Website

BLM Fire Operations maintains a website that hosts operational, informational, and policy-related documents. The website also contains information about the National Fire Equipment Program, the BLM Fire Training Unit, and the BLM Fire Operations Group and its subcommittees. This website is referenced throughout this document. The address of the BLM Fire Operations website is: http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/index.html

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Relationship to BLM

NWCG is a national group whose function is to provide leadership and establish, implement, maintain and communicate policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management and support the National Incident Management System. Refer to Chapter 8 of this document for more information.

BLM provides a representative to the NWCG Executive Board and representatives to various NWCG committees and subcommittees. These representatives are responsible for accomplishing tasks as directed by the NWCG Executive Board, ensuring proposed policies, guidelines, or standards are reviewed by pertinent agency personnel prior to implementation by NWCG, and providing a consolidated BLM position during NWCG decision-making processes.

NWCG policies, guidelines or standards, if adopted by BLM, are implemented through the BLM directive system.

1 Fire and Aviation Directorate

2

3 The BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate (FAD) consists of the Assistant
4 Director (FA), Deputy Assistant Director (FA), Fire Operations Division Chief,
5 Aviation Division Chief, Planning and Resources Division Chief, Support
6 Services Division Chief, Budget and Evaluation Chief, External Affairs Division
7 Chief, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Manager.

8

9 Program Manager Responsibilities

10

11 Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation (FA-100)**12 Deputy Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation (FA-100)**

- 13 • Develops policies and standards for firefighting safety, training, prevention,
14 suppression, and use of wildland fires on Bureau lands.
- 15 • Provides guidance to State Directors on the use of prescribed fire and fuels
16 management to achieve hazardous fuels reduction and resource
17 management objectives.
- 18 • Integrates fire and aviation management procedures into natural resource
19 management.
- 20 • Establishes position competencies, standards, and minimum qualifications
21 for Fire Management Officers, Fire Management Specialists, and leaders
22 based on federal interagency standards.
- 23 • Implements the fire planning and funding allocation process, and develops
24 procedures and standards for the distribution of program resources.
- 25 • Reviews and evaluates state fire and aviation management programs.
- 26 • Represents the BLM in the coordination of overall fire and aviation
27 management activities at National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), on intra-
28 and interagency fire committees, groups, and working teams.
- 29 • In conjunction with federal fire directors, establishes priorities for
30 assignment of critical resources during wildland fire emergencies.
- 31 • Initiates or participates on Boards of Review concerning actions taken on
32 selected wildland fires.
- 33 • Negotiates cooperative agreements and/or modifications of existing national
34 level agreements to improve fire and aviation management activities on
35 Bureau lands.
- 36 • Reviews funding requests for severity, hazardous fuel reduction, and
37 emergency rehabilitation of Bureau lands damaged by wildland fires; makes
38 determinations on funding levels and recommends approval to the BLM
39 Director.
- 40 • Serves as the Bureau's focal point for the Large Fire Cost Review (LFCR)
41 process and initiates, facilitates, and provides oversight for the LFCR
42 process. The AD coordinates with the appropriate state director, assembles
43 a LFCR team, provides a delegation of authority, initiates the LFCR, and
44 provides briefings to the Bureau Director, as appropriate.

- 1 • Serves as designated contact for the United States Department of the
2 Treasury for the certification and revocation of Certifying Officers and
3 Assistant Disbursing Officers (CO/ADO) and Designated Officials for
4 emergency incident payments.
- 5 • Supervises the Senior Program Advisor position located at the Washington
6 Headquarters Office. This position provides connectivity between the
7 Director's Office, the other BLM Directorates, the BLM State Offices, the
8 Department's other offices such as the Office of Wildland Fire, and the
9 Forest Service National Office in D.C. and maintains a day-to-day physical
10 presence with the rest of the Bureau's national level leadership to fully
11 integrate programs and leverage capability. This position maintains
12 frequent, routine contact with those organizations on a variety of topics
13 ranging from current fire activity to strategic interdisciplinary, interagency,
14 or intergovernmental policy and processes for the protection of lives,
15 property, and the resources.

17 **Equal Employment Opportunity Manager (EEO) (FA-102)**

- 18 • Manages the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program in accordance
19 with legal, regulatory, and policy requirements.
- 20 • Manages and directs the Counseling Program, and Alternative Dispute
21 Resolution (ADR) programs, in accordance with Equal Employment
22 Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations and BLM policy as well as
23 for other NIFC agencies.
- 24 • Advises managers and aggrieved persons of employee rights and
25 responsibilities, procedural options and timeframes in conflict situations and
26 formulates proposed resolutions.
- 27 • Negotiates with managers, aggrieved persons and their representatives to
28 informally resolve EEO matters, and executes final settlement agreements.
- 29 • Manages the Affirmative Employment Program (AEP).
- 30 • Develops and maintains the accessibility program for the disabled, required
31 under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the
32 Americans with Disability Act (ADA of 1990).
- 33 • Conducts analyses to evaluate progress in meeting equal employment
34 opportunity program goals.
- 35 • Administers training activities for the organization.
- 36 • Provides managers and supervisors with guidance and advice on issues
37 related to EEO/civil rights program activities.
- 38 • Represents the organization in meetings with public and private groups,
39 universities, minority and women's organizations, other DOI components,
40 and other federal agencies.

42 **Support Services Division Chief (FA-200)**

- 43 • Manages all aspects of the business responsibilities and programs under the
44 jurisdiction of NIFC for the benefit of the BLM and cooperating agencies.

- 1 • Directs the accomplishment of the approved operating budget, exercising
2 appropriate control to assure program quality goals are met according to
3 established standards.
- 4 • Interprets Departmental and Bureau policies and directives as they affect
5 BLM-NIFC programs.
- 6 • Participates in the BLM-wide and interagency task force activities as a
7 leader or member.
- 8 • Responsible for the NIFC Site and Facilities Management, NIFC Safety and
9 Health program, Business Practices, Human Resources, Information
10 Resource Management, Maintenance and Security, National Radio Cache,
11 Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) program, and
12 Transportation.
- 13 • Is a focal point and frequent spokesperson for the Bureau and the national
14 level management, assures a public awareness of Bureau programs and
15 coordinates with key officials in affected federal agencies, states, and
16 occasionally with other entities such as: foreign governments, private
17 individuals, private organizations, vendors, suppliers, transportation groups,
18 airlines, and others.
- 19 • Supports the implementation of the BLM's Automation/Modernization/
20 Information Resource Management (IRM) initiatives as they apply to
21 BLM/NIFC.

23 **Fire Operations Division Chief (FA-300)**

- 24 • Serves as the principal technical expert on fire operations to the Assistant
25 Director (FA), Deputy Assistant Director (FA), and to the BLM state fire
26 programs.
- 27 • Provides the Assistant Director (FA) and the Deputy Assistant Director
28 (FA) technical advice, operational oversight, and leadership in all aspects of
29 fire operations.
- 30 • Performs annual fire program preparedness reviews. Evaluates compliance
31 with policies, objectives, and standards. Assesses operational readiness and
32 provides technical assistance to solve identified problems. Performs other
33 operations reviews as required/requested.
- 34 • Assists the Assistant Director (FA) and Deputy Assistant Director (FA), in
35 the formulation and establishment of national policies and programs
36 pertinent to wildland fire preparedness, suppression, shared national
37 resources, safety, training, and equipment.
- 38 • Serves as the BLM technical expert on national interagency mobilization
39 and utilization of fire suppression resources.
- 40 • Develops national plans, standards, and technical guides for the BLM and
41 interagency fire management operations.
- 42 • Develops and implements safety programs, accident investigation
43 procedures, and safety trend analyses.
- 44 • Supervises the Branch of Radio Operations (FA-350) which is responsible
45 for policy, guidance, and governance, as well as tactical and operational

- 1 national radio planning for the Bureau to meet the needs of all business
2 users (law enforcement (LE), fire, cadastral survey, recreation, and natural
3 resource programs). FA-350 is responsible for managing the BLM's
4 nationwide radio frequency (RF) assignments; conducting management
5 control reviews; user satisfaction surveys; Exhibit 300 Business Case;
6 operational analysis; equipment test plans; testing resources for the DOI
7 Technical Service Center (TSC); implementation of facilities standards, and
8 management of equipment lifecycles.
- 9 • Serves as the BLM representative to the National Multi Agency
10 Coordinating Group (NMAC).

11

Budget and Evaluation Division Chief (FA-400)

- 13 • Serves as principal budget advisor of the wildland fire program to the
14 Assistant Director (FA), Deputy Assistant Director (FA), BLM Fire
15 Leadership Team, and to other BLM staffs.
- 16 • Serves as primary BLM representative in the DOI Wildland Fire Budget
17 formulation and execution process.
- 18 • Represents BLM on the DOI Fire Budget Team and at other interagency
19 meetings in regards to budget related policies, requirements, procedures,
20 and reports.
- 21 • Coordinates all budget activities between Washington Office, Office of
22 Wildland Fire, and Fire and Aviation.
- 23 • Provides national oversight for BLM Wildland Fire program budget
24 formulation, justification, and execution. Responsible for the development
25 and preparation of the budget justifications, Planning Target Allocation,
26 Annual Work Plan, capability statements, effects statements, and
27 congressional responses.
- 28 • Reviews NIFC offices at mid-year, third quarter, and end-of-year and
29 distributes available funding in accordance with BLM policy.
- 30 • Provides oversight of Casual Payment Center. Ensures all DOI casual
31 payments are processed in a timely and cost-effective manner adhering to
32 procedures and practices set forth by the DOI agencies.

33

Aviation Division Chief (FA-500)

- 35 • Serves as principal aviation advisor to the Assistant Director (FA), Deputy
36 Assistant Director (FA), other staffs, states, and to the DOI.
- 37 • Identifies and develops Bureau aviation policies, methods and procedures,
38 as well as standardized technical specifications for a variety of specialized
39 firefighting missions for incorporation into the directives system.
- 40 • Coordinates aviation-related activities and services between the Washington
41 Office (WO) and states with other wildland firefighting, regulatory,
42 investigative, and military agencies.
- 43 • Coordinates provision and use of aviation resources with business practices,
44 aviation user staffs at the WO, and state office level.

- 1 • Represents the BLM at interagency meetings, in interagency committees
2 developing government-wide aviation policies, requirements, procedures
3 and reports, at aviation industry meetings and conventions.
- 4 • Develops and implements aviation safety programs, accident investigation
5 procedures, and aviation safety trend analyses.
- 6 • Plans and conducts reviews and evaluations of state aviation programs.
- 7 • Plans and conducts technical and managerial analyses relating to the
8 identification of aviation organization and resources appropriate for agency
9 use, cost-effectiveness of aviation firefighting, other specialized missions,
10 aircraft acquisition requirements, equipment developmental needs, and
11 related areas.

12

13 Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division Chief (FA-600)

- 14 • Responsible for the development and implementation of the Bureau-wide
15 fire planning program. Provides guidance and assistance in administering
16 the technical and operational aspects of BLM's fire planning program at the
17 state, regional, and agency levels for the accurate identification of program
18 funding needs. Checks for accuracy in computations with instructions and
19 policies.
- 20 • Responsible for the development and coordination of the BLM's prescribed
21 fire, fuels management, fire trespass, and fire prevention annual programs,
22 and recommends the distribution of program funds to regions.
- 23 • Tracks all fuels management fund distributions and prior year carryover
24 funds. Develops and maintains a national database for fuels management
25 accomplishments for Indian Trust Lands.
- 26 • Analyzes hazards and risks in the wildland urban interface using fuels
27 modification or reduction techniques, and develops recommendations for
28 Bureauwide application. Examines and analyzes laws and regulations
29 pertaining to prescribed fire use/fuels management in the wildland urban
30 interface, and works with top level Bureau representatives, states, and rural
31 fire districts to recommend policy which will achieve uniformity.
- 32 • Serves as the BLM's primary subject matter expert for National Fire
33 Management Analysis System (NFMAS), fire planning, Personal Computer
34 Historical Analysis (PCHA), Geographic Information System (GIS), Global
35 Positioning System (GPS), Lightning Detection System (LDS), Weather
36 Information Management System (WIMS), Wildland Fire Decision Support
37 System (WFDSS), prescribed fire software programs, and provides user
38 training in those applications.

39

40 External Affairs Division Chief (FA-700)

- 41 • Responsible for coordination of information between the Department of the
42 Interior and Office of Wildland Fire to the BLM, BIA, USFWS, NPS,
43 USFS, National Association State Foresters (NASF), and Federal
44 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at NIFC.

- 1 • Responsible for coordination of the responses to: Office of Management
2 and Budget (OMB), Government Accountability Office (GAO),
3 congressional, other elected official, and other external inquiries among
4 agencies and departments, establishing and maintaining cooperative
5 relationships resulting in quality work products.
- 6 • Serves as the primary manager of the External Affairs program for the
7 NIFC.
- 8 • Serves as the primary point of contact to external audiences regarding
9 BLM, and at times, DOI fire and aviation policy.
- 10 • Serves as the primary point of contact with the BLM Washington Office
11 and DOI external affairs and communication offices.
- 12 • Develops recommendations pertaining to External Affairs aspects for BLM
13 Fire and Aviation policies.
- 14 • Initiates External Affairs policies and procedures pertaining to Fire and
15 Aviation for adoption at the department level in conjunction with other
16 departments and agencies.
- 17 • Serves as personal and direct representative of the Assistant Director, Fire
18 and Aviation at various meetings and functions with members of congress
19 and staff, state governors and legislatures, officials of local, state and
20 federal agencies, major private corporations, public and private interest
21 groups, and foreign governments.
- 22 • Serves as external affairs expert and consultant to the Assistant Director,
23 (FA) and the Deputy Assistant Director (FA) on a wide variety of issues and
24 policies of controversial nature, providing analysis and advice on public
25 reaction to major policy and program issues.
- 26 • Responsible for management and contact of all NIFC and BLM FA public
27 expressions, including printed material, video productions, and social media
28 products.
- 29 • Coordinates with BLM legislative affairs on proposed legislation regarding
30 FA.

31 32 **State Director**

33 The State Director is responsible for fire management programs and activities
34 within the state. The State Director will ensure that employees in their
35 organization meet the requirements outlined in the *Interagency Fire Program*
36 *Management Qualifications Standards and Guide* at: <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov/>
37 and will ensure training is completed to support delegations to line managers
38 and principal actings.

39 40 **District/Field Manager**

41 The District/Field Manager is responsible to the State Director for the safe and
42 efficient implementation of fire management activities within their unit. This
43 includes cooperative activities with other agencies or landowners in accordance
44 with delegations of authorities. The District/Field Manager and their principal

- 1 actings will meet the required elements outlined in the Management
 2 Performance Requirements for Fire Operations below.

3

4 **Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations**

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Director/ Associate	District/ Field Manager
1. Ensures Fire Management Plans (FMPs) reflect the agency commitment to firefighter and public safety by establishing a fire organization to meet state/unit workload or national allocations, while utilizing the full range of fire management activities available for ecosystem sustainability.	X	X
2. Develops fire management standards and constraints that are compliant with agency fire policies.	X	X
3. Ensures use of fire funds is in compliance with department and agency policies.	X	X
4. Ensures incident responses will be based on current and approved Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and FMPs.	X	X
5. Attends the Local or National Fire Management Leadership Course. Ensures that personnel delegated fire program responsibilities have completed the Local or National Fire Management Leadership Course.		X
6. Publishes decisions in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) as per chapter 2 and Chapter 11.	X	X
7. Provides a written Delegation of Authority to FMOs that gives them an adequate level of operational authority. If fire management responsibilities are zoned, ensures that all appropriate Agency Administrators have signed the delegation.	X	X
8. Ensures only trained, certified fire and non-fire personnel are available to support fire operations at the local and national level.	X	X
9. Ensures master agreements with cooperators are valid and in compliance with agency policy, and that attached Annual Operating Plans are current.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Director/ Associate	District/ Field Manager
10. Personally visits at least one wildland and one prescribed fire each year.		X
11. Annually convenes and participates in pre-and post season fire meetings.	X	X
12. Reviews critical operations and safety policies and procedures with fire and fire aviation personnel.	X	X
13. Ensures timely follow-up to fire preparedness and program reviews.	X	X
14. Ensures fire and fire aviation preparedness reviews are conducted annually in all unit offices. Participates in at least one review annually.	X	X
15. Ensures investigations are conducted for incidents with potential, entrapments, and serious accidents as per the standards in Chapter 18.	X	X
16. Provides a written Delegation of Authority, copy of the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Published Decision, and an Agency Administrator Briefing to Incident Management Teams.		X
17. Provides a written Delegation of Authority and/or expectations to the unit's Type 3, 4, and 5 Incident Commanders annually prior to fire season.		X
18. Ensures resource advisors are identified, trained, and available for incident assignment. Refer to <i>Resource Advisors Guide for Wildland Fire PMS 313, NFES 1831, Jan 2004</i> .		X
19. Attends post fire closeout on Type 1 and Type 2 fires (attendance may be delegated.)		X
20. Ensures trespass actions are initiated and documented to recover cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resource and improvements for all human-caused fires where liability can be determined, as per <i>Fire Trespass Handbook H-9238-1</i> .	X	X
21. Ensures compliance with National and State Office policy for prescribed fire activities. Participates in periodic reviews of the prescribed fire program.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Director/ Associate	District/ Field Manager
22. Ensures prescribed fire plans that are approved meet agency policies.	X	X
23. Ensures the prescribed fire plan has been reviewed and recommended by a qualified technical reviewer who was not involved in the plan preparation.		X
24. Ensures the <i>Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization</i> (PMS 485) is signed and dated with the time frame identified before the prescribed fire is ignited.		X
25. Ensures Unit Safety Program is in place, has a current plan, has an active safety committee that includes the fire program.	X	X
26. Annually updates and reviews the <i>Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management</i> (or equivalent).	X	X
27. Ensures that a current emergency medical response plan is in place and accessible.		X
28. Ensures current fire and weather information is posted (hardcopy, web, etc.), and available for all employees.		X

1

2 **Manager's Oversight**

3 Agency Administrators are managers that have wildland fire decision authority
4 for a defined area, as specified by delegation. Agency Administrators are
5 required to personally visit an appropriate number of fires each year. Appendix
6 A contains information to support the Agency Administrators during these
7 visits.

8

9 **Post Incident Review**

10 Appendix B (*Managers Supplement for Post Incident Review*) emphasizes the
11 factors that are critical for ensuring safe and efficient wildland fire suppression,
12 and provides examples for managers to use in their review of incident operations
13 and Incident Commanders.

14

15 **Fire Training for Agency Administrators**

16 Agency Administrators and their acting must complete one of the following
17 courses within two years of being appointed to a designated management
18 position. Either class is acceptable.

- 19 • National - Fire Management Leadership
- 20 • Geographic - Local Fire Management Leadership

1 Agency Administrator training and qualifications may be entered into IQCS. If
 2 an Agency Administrator will be mobilized through ROSS and/or an Incident
 3 Qualification Card is issued, Agency Administrators are also required to
 4 complete *IS-700A NIMS: An Introduction* and *I-100 Introduction to ICS*. The
 5 IQCS mnemonic for BLM Agency Administrators is AADM.

6
 7 **State Fire Management Officer (SFMO)**

8 The State Fire Management Officer (SFMO) provides leadership for their
 9 agency fire and fire aviation management program. The SFMO is responsible
 10 and accountable for providing planning, coordination, training, technical
 11 guidance, and oversight to the state fire management programs. The SFMO also
 12 represents the State Director on interagency geographic area coordination
 13 groups and Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) groups. The SFMO provides
 14 feedback to Districts/Field Offices on performance requirements.

15
 16 **District/Zone/Field Office Fire Management Officer**

17 The District/Zone/Field Office Fire Management Officer (FMO) is responsible
 18 and accountable for providing leadership for fire and fire aviation management
 19 programs at the local level.

20
 21 The Fire Management Officer:

- 22 • determines local fire program requirements to implement land use decisions
 23 through the Fire Management Plan (FMP) to meet land management
 24 objectives;
- 25 • negotiates interagency agreements and represents the District/Field Office
 26 Manager on local interagency fire and fire aviation groups;
- 27 • meets Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations; and
- 28 • fulfills FMO Safety and Health Responsibilities for the Fire Program.

29
 30 Experience requirements for positions in Alaska Fire Service, Oregon and
 31 California (O&C) Districts, NIFC, national office, and other fire management
 32 positions in units and state/regional offices will be established as vacancies
 33 occur, but will be commensurate with the position’s scope of responsibilities.
 34 The developmental training to fully achieve competencies should be addressed
 35 in an IDP within a defined time period.

36
 37 **Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations**

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State FMO	District/Zone/Field Office FMO
1. Establishes and manages a safe, effective, and efficient fire program.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State FMO	District/ Zone/Field Office FMO
2. Ensures the fire program is funded and managed to provide for safe and effective fire management activities.	X	X
3. Ensures the Fire Management Plan (FMP) reflects the agency commitment to firefighter and public safety by establishing a fire organization to meet state/unit workload or national allocations, while utilizing the full range of fire management activities available for ecosystem sustainability.	X	X
4. Ensures Individual Fire Reports (DI-1202s) are completed, signed/approved, and entered into WFMI.	X	X
5. Ensures only trained and qualified personnel are assigned to fire and fire aviation duties.	X	X
6. Ensures the unit safety program is implemented and provides direction for fire and non-fire safety regulations, training, and concerns.	X	X
7. Ensures completion of a Risk Assessment (RA) for fire and fire aviation activities, and non-fire activities so mitigation measures are taken to reduce risk.		X
8. Ensures compliance with work/rest guidelines during all fire and fire aviation activities.	X	X
9. Ensures fire and fire aviation management employees understand their role, responsibilities, authority, and accountability.	X	X
10. Organizes, trains, equips, and directs a qualified work force.	X	X
11. Establishes and implements a post incident assignment performance review process for each employee.	X	X
12. Develops, implements, evaluates, and documents fire and fire aviation training to meet current and anticipated needs.	X	X
13. Ensures fire and fire aviation policies are understood, implemented, and coordinated with other agencies as appropriate.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State FMO	District/ Zone/Field Office FMO
14. Monitors fire suppression activities to recognize when complexity levels exceed program capabilities. Increases managerial and operational resources to meet the need.	X	X
15. Monitors fire season severity predictions, fire behavior, and fire activity levels. Ensures national fire severity funding and national preposition funding is requested in a timely manner, used, and documented in accordance with agency standards.	X	X
16. Monitors the expenditure of Short-Term Severity and State Discretionary Preposition funding.	X	X
17. Ensures agreements with cooperators are valid and in compliance with agency policy, and that attached Annual Operating Plans are current.	X	X
18. Develops, maintains, and implements current operational plans (e.g., dispatch, preparedness, prevention).		X
19. Ensures that initial response plans (e.g. run cards, preplanned response) are in place and provide for initial response commensurate with guidance provided in the Fire Management Plan and Land/Resource Management Plan. Ensures that initial response plans reflect agreements and annual operating plans, and are reviewed annually prior to fire season.		X
20. Develops, maintains, and implements restrictions procedures in coordination with cooperators whenever possible.	X	X
21. Ensures that the use of fire funds complies with department and agency policies.	X	X
22. Reviews and approves appropriate overtime authorization requests for personnel providing fire suppression coverage during holidays, special events, and abnormal fire conditions.		X
23. Ensures a process is established to communicate fire information to public, media, and cooperators.	X	X
24. Annually convenes and participates in pre-and post season fire meetings where management controls and critical safety issues are discussed.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State FMO	District/ Zone/Field Office FMO
25. Oversees pre-season preparedness review of fire and fire aviation program.	X	X
26. Initiates, conducts, and/or participates in fire program management reviews and investigations.	X	X
27. Personally participates in periodic site visits to individual incidents and projects.	X	X
28. Utilizes the Risk and Complexity Assessment (appendix E & F) to ensure the proper level of management is assigned to all incidents.	X	X
29. Ensures transfer of command on incidents occurs as per Chapter 11.		X
30. Ensures incoming personnel and crews are briefed prior to fire and fire aviation assignments.		X
31. Ensures that an accurate and defensible decision is published in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for all fires that escape initial attack.	X	X
32. Ensures that an accurate and defensible decision is published in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for all fires managed for multiple objectives.	X	X
33. Works with cooperators, groups, and individuals to develop and implement processes and procedures for providing fire safe communities within the wildland urban interface.	X	X
34. Ensures trespass actions are initiated and documented to recover cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resource/improvements for all human-caused fires that ignite on BLM jurisdiction where liability can be determined.	X	X
35. Ensures required unit personnel are trained in fire cause determination and fire trespass.	X	X
36. Ensures compliance with National and State Office policy for prescribed fire activities. Provides periodic reviews of the prescribed fire program.	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State FMO	District/ Zone/Field Office FMO
37. Annually updates and reviews the <i>Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management</i> (or equivalent).	X	X
38. Ensures that all fire employees review and update their emergency contact information annually, either in Employee Express or in hard copy format.	X	X
39. Ensures fire season severity predictions, weather forecasts, fire behavior predictors, and fire activity levels are monitored and communicated daily to all employees (hard copy, web page, email, radio, or fax).		X
40. Ensures standards in current National and Local Mobilization Guides are followed.	X	X
41. Complies with established property control/management procedures.	X	X

1
2 Requirements for fire management positions are outlined in the *Interagency Fire*
3 *Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide* (IFPM) Standard.
4 The supplemental Qualification Standard for professional GS-0401 Fire
5 Management Specialist positions, approved by the Office of Personnel
6 Management, is also included in the IFPM Standard. The *Interagency Fire*
7 *Program Management Qualification Standards and Guide* can be found in its
8 entirety on the IFPM website: <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov>.

9

10 **Delegation of Authority**

11

12 **Delegation for State Fire Management Officers (SFMO)**

13 In order to effectively perform their duties, a SFMO must have certain
14 authorities delegated from the State Director. This delegation is normally placed
15 in the state office supplement to agency manuals. This Delegation of Authority
16 should include the following roles and responsibilities:

- 17 • Serve as the State Director's authorized representative on geographic area
- 18 coordination groups, including MAC groups.
- 19 • Coordinate and establish priorities on uncommitted fire suppression
- 20 resources during periods of shortages.
- 21 • Coordinate logistics and suppression operations statewide.
- 22 • Relocate agency pre-suppression/suppression resources within the
- 23 state/region based on relative fire potential/activity.
- 24 • Correct unsafe fire suppression activities.
- 25 • Direct accelerated, aggressive initial attack when appropriate.

- 1 • Enter into agreements to provide for the management, fiscal, and
- 2 operational functions of combined agency operated facilities.
- 3 • Suspend prescribed fire activities when warranted.
- 4 • Give authorization to hire Emergency Firefighters in accordance with the
- 5 DOI Pay Plan for Emergency Workers.
- 6 • Monitor (and approve if delegated) emergency Short-Term fire severity
- 7 funding and State Discretionary Preposition funding expenditures not to
- 8 exceed the state's annual authority.
- 9 • Ensure national fire severity funding and national preposition funding is
- 10 requested in a timely manner, used, and documented in accordance with
- 11 agency standards.
- 12 • Appendix C provides a sample "Delegation of Authority".

13

14 **Delegation for District/Zone/Field Office Fire Management Officers (FMO)**

15 In order to effectively perform their duties, a unit FMO must have certain
16 authorities delegated from the District Manager. This delegation is normally
17 issued annually. This Delegation of Authority should include the following
18 roles and responsibilities:

- 19 • Serve as the District Manager's authorized representative on operations
- 20 groups and coordination groups, including MAC groups.
- 21 • Coordinate and establish priorities on uncommitted fire suppression
- 22 resources during periods of shortages.
- 23 • Coordinate logistics and suppression operations for the unit.
- 24 • Relocate agency pre-suppression/suppression resources within the unit
- 25 based on relative fire potential/activity.
- 26 • Correct unsafe fire suppression activities.
- 27 • Direct accelerated, aggressive initial attack when appropriate.
- 28 • Facilitate entry into agreements to provide for the management, fiscal, and
- 29 operational functions of combined agency operated facilities.
- 30 • Suspend prescribed fire activities when warranted.
- 31 • Give authorization to hire Emergency Firefighters in accordance with the
- 32 DOI Pay Plan for Emergency Workers.
- 33 • Approve emergency fire severity funding expenditures not to exceed the
- 34 unit's approved authority.
- 35 • Appendix C provides a sample "Delegation of Authority".

36

37 **BLM Operational Duty Officer (ODO)**

38

39 Each BLM unit Fire Management Officer will perform the duties of an ODO or
40 will provide a delegated ODO for their units during any period of predicted
41 incident activities. ODO responsibilities may be performed by any individual
42 with a signed Delegation of Authority from the local Agency Administrator.
43 Qualifications for the ODO will be identified within the Unit Annual Operating
44 Plan. The required duties for all BLM ODOs are:

- 45 • Monitor unit incident activities for compliance with BLM safety policies.

- 1 • Coordinate and set priorities for unit suppression actions and resource
 - 2 allocation.
 - 3 • Keep unit Agency Administrators, suppression resources, and information
 - 4 officers informed of the current and expected situation.
 - 5 • Plan for and implement actions required for future needs.
 - 6 • Document all decisions and actions.
- 7
- 8 ODOs will provide operational oversight of these requirements as well as any
- 9 unit specific duties assigned by the local fire managers through the local unit fire
- 10 operating plan. ODOs will not fill any ICS incident command functions
- 11 connected to any incident. In the event that the ODO is required to accept an
- 12 incident assignment, the FMO will ensure that another qualified and authorized
- 13 ODO is in place prior to the departure of the outgoing ODO.

14 **Incident Business**

15

16

17 A consolidated view of fire business practices, supporting policy, and regulation

18 is contained in the *BLM Standards for Fire Business Management*, available at:

19 http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/budget/Reference_docs/Incident%20Business/I

20 [B-new/OrangeBk.html](http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/budget/Reference_docs/Incident%20Business/I)

21 **BLM Fire Management Position Titles and Fire Department Cooperator**

22 **Equivalencies**

23

24

25 Bureau of Land Management units that choose to use fire department cooperator

26 nomenclature will utilize the following BLM position title equivalency standard.

27 BLM Fire Management Position Title	Fire Department Cooperator Equivalency
State FMO, District FMO	Chief
State AFMO, District AFMO	Deputy Chief
State Office Fire Staff	Assistant Chief
Field Office FMO, Center Manager, District Fire Management Specialist, District Fuels Specialist	Division Chief
Fire Operations Specialist, Fuels Specialist, Assistant Center Manager, Prevention/Education Specialist	Battalion Chief
Prevention Technician, Prevention/Education Specialist	Prevention officer
Hotshot Superintendent, Helicopter Manager	Superintendent
Engine Captain, Hotshot Foreman, Assistant Helicopter Manager, Fuels Module Leader	Captain
Fire Engine Operator	Engineer
Communications Technician	Comm.
Mechanic	Repair

1 **Safety and Occupational Health Program**

2

3 Safety and occupational health program responsibilities are interwoven
 4 throughout Bureau program areas, including fire management. Safety of our
 5 employees lies within every level of the organization and program
 6 implementation can have a direct impact on firefighting personnel. To ensure
 7 that program requirements are met to support the fire and aviation management
 8 program, the following checklist shall be utilized.

9

10 **Safety and Health Responsibilities for the Fire Program**

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Safety Manager	District/ Zone Safety Manager	Unit FMO	District/ Field Manager
1. An annual Unit Safety and Health Action Plan is developed, approved, and signed by unit Agency Administrator. This plan outlines courses of action to improve the unit's safety program and is based upon an assessment of what is needed to make the safety program fully functional.		X	X	X
2. Risk assessments (RAs) are completed for suppression and non-suppression related activities and crews are briefed on RAs prior to beginning work.			X	X
3. An individual has been designated as the Unit Safety Officer.	X			X
4. Maintains a working relationship with all facets of the fire organization including outstations.		X	X	X
5. A safety committee or group, which includes fire representation, is organized to monitor safety and health concerns and activities.		X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Safety Manager	District/ Zone Safety Manager	Unit FMO	District/ Field Manager
6. Written safety and health programs required by OSHA are in place and being implemented to include fire personnel.	X	X		
7. Employees are provided mandatory safety and health training, including the BLM Fire and Aviation Employee Orientation Checklist.		X	X	X
8. Fire safety programs (e.g., SAFENET, Six Minutes for Safety, Safety Alerts) are known and being utilized.			X	
9. Safety publications are available to all fire employees (e.g., <i>Incident Response Pocket Guide</i> , <i>1112-2 Manual</i> , <i>Fireline Handbook 410-1</i>).			X	
10. Assures that risk management process is integrated into all major policies, management decisions, and the planning and performance of every job. (<i>BLM Manual 1112</i>)			X	
11. Procedures are in place to monitor Work Capacity Test (WCT) results and ensure medical examination policies are followed.			X	
12. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are present, accessible, and available for all hazardous materials used and stored in the work area.		X	X	

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Safety Manager	District/ Zone Safety Manager	Unit FMO	District/ Field Manager
13. Procedures are in place to purchase non-standard equipment as identified in the Risk Assessment process, and to ensure compliance with consensus standards (e.g., ANSI, NIOSH) for PPE.	X	X		X
14. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplied, is serviceable, and being utilized.		X	X	
15. Ensures tailgate safety meetings are held and documented.			X	
16. Monitors and inspects operations and work sites for unsafe acts and conditions and promptly takes appropriate preventative and corrective measures. (<i>BLM Manual 1112</i>)		X		
17. Procedures are in place for reporting unsafe and unhealthful working conditions.		X		X
18. Promptly reports and investigates all job-related accidents/incidents that result in or have the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, illnesses, property, or environmental damage. All such reports are electronically submitted to the Safety Management Information System (SMIS). <i>BLM Manual 1112 Safety</i>			X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	State Safety Manager	District/Zone Safety Manager	Unit FMO	District/Field Manager
19. Injury data is monitored and reviewed to determine trends affecting the health and welfare of employees.		X		X
20. Ensures facility and work areas inspections are conducted to ensure requirements are met. 29 CFR 1960 and 485 DM, Chapter 5 requirements.	X	X		X

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Employee Safety and Health Program Responsibility

All employees have personal responsibility to ensure safe and healthful work practices and the following elements specifically outline these responsibilities:

- Complying with applicable work rules, practices, and procedures.
- Using safety devices, personal protective equipment, clothing, and other means provided or directed by recognized authority at all times when necessary for their protection.
- Reporting unsafe and unhealthful working conditions to management.
- Reporting every job-related accident/incident to their supervisor that results in, or has the potential to harm people, property, or the environment.
- Reporting personal conditions that could adversely affect their ability to perform in a safe and healthful manner on the job.
- Completing the BLM Fire and Aviation Employee Orientation Checklist, available on the BLM Fire Operations website.

Emergency Notification and Contact Information

After emergency response actions deliver an injured employee to the immediate medical care facility, prompt notification through the chain of command is essential to ensure proper management support to the employee. For BLM fire operations, notification criteria are as follows:

- **Injury on a BLM Fire**
The responsible unit Fire Management Officer (FMO)/ Operational Duty Officer will notify their State Duty Officer (or Fire Operations Group (FOG) representative) immediately. The State Duty Officer (or FOG representative) will then ensure the appropriate local agency GACC operational representative is notified.
- **BLM Employee Injury**
Injured employee’s home unit FMO is notified. The FMO will then notify their State Duty Officer (or FOG representative) immediately. If the

- 1 employee injury occurs in another state, the State Duty Officer (or FOG
2 representative) will ensure that the hosting State Duty Officer (or FOG
3 representative) is notified of the injury.
- 4 • **Great Basin Smokejumpers**
 - 5 ○ From the Scene:
 - 6 ■ The accident is reported to the smokejumper spotter, Great Basin
7 Smokejumper Liaison Officer (LO), and local dispatch.
 - 8 ■ When the accident involves a jump injury, the spotter and/or
9 ground contact will convey the medical needs and nature of the
10 injury to the local dispatch.
 - 11 ■ If cellular phone or satellite phone coverage is available, a
12 ground contact will call the Great Basin Smokejumper LO or DO
13 with details about the accident.
 - 14 ○ From the Great Basin Smokejumper Duty Officer:
 - 15 ■ The Great Basin Smokejumper Duty Officer will notify the base
16 manager.
 - 17 ■ The smokejumper base manager will notify the National
18 Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Fire Operations Chief of
19 Preparedness and Suppression Standards (or acting).
 - 20 ■ BLM Operations Chief of Preparedness and Suppression
21 Standards will inform necessary parties up the chain of command
22 and notify the NIFC External Affairs Office.
 - 23 ■ The Great Basin Smokejumper Duty Officer or Base Manager
24 will notify the BLM State Duty Officer (or FOG Representative).
 - 25 ■ The Great Basin Smokejumper Duty Officer will confirm an
26 agency representative will accompany the injured party to the
27 hospital.
 - 28 ○ From the BLM Great Basin Smokejumper Base Manager:
 - 29 ■ The smokejumper base manager will contact their base manager
30 counterpart if a visiting jumper is injured.
 - 31 ■ The smokejumper base manager will notify the emergency
32 contact of the injured smokejumper if the injured smokejumper is
33 unable to do so.

34
35 All fire and aviation employees are required to review and update their
36 emergency contact information annually, either in Employee Express or in hard
37 copy format. This information will only be used for emergency purposes and
38 only by those authorized to make contact with the employee and/or their
39 personal contact(s) and will be maintained in accordance with the provisions of
40 the Privacy Act of 1974. See WO IM # 2012-196 for more instructions for
41 completing entry into Employee Express and/or the *BLM Personal Emergency*
42 *Contact Information form*.

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1 Employee Advocacy

2

3 Fire operations doctrine acknowledges the inherent danger of fire operations and
4 the potential for serious injury or death to firefighters. When these occur, it is
5 important that Bureau employees are provided the best and most appropriate
6 care and support possible. Managers should consult their human resources
7 experts to ensure that applicable Departmental and Bureau human resources
8 policies and guidelines are followed. In addition, the *Bureau of Land*
9 *Management Line of Duty Death (LODD) Response Guide* provides information
10 to assist managers in dealing with the many complexities of these occurrences.

11

12 The *LODD Response Guide* is available in the Toolbox section of the BLM Fire
13 Operations Website.

14

15 BLM Fire and Aviation Honor Guard

16

17 The BLM Fire and Aviation Honor Guard represents the highest ideals of honor,
18 dignity, professionalism and respect in serving the agency, the fire community,
19 and the families, friends and co-workers of those who have lost their lives in the
20 line of duty.

21

22 The Honor Guard was established to appropriately pay tribute to and honor the
23 memory of employees who perish in the line of duty. The Honor Guard also
24 responds to requests for their participation at events of state and national
25 significance.

26

27 The Honor Guard is comprised of a cross-section of the BLM workforce from
28 within the fire and aviation program. A commitment to the program directly
29 impacts fellow members and the ability of the team to function at the highest
30 level possible. Members will be expected to commit for no less than a two-year
31 period, and may remain an Honor Guard member until they can no longer fulfill
32 the commitment or wish to retire from the Honor Guard. Members must stay in
33 good standing in the Bureau.

34

35 For more information, refer to
36 http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/honor_guard.html.

37

38 Employee Conduct

39

40 All employees, cooperators, contractors, and volunteers who participate in
41 wildland fire operations have the duty to treat each other with respect and to
42 maintain a work environment free of misconduct and harassment.

43 Misconduct includes but is not limited to: alcohol misuse, driving while
44 intoxicated, the use of illegal drugs, hazing, insubordination, disregard for
45 policies and procedures, and the destruction or theft of government property.

46

1 Harassment is coercive or repeated, unsolicited and unwelcome verbal
2 comments, gestures, or physical contacts and includes retaliation for confronting
3 or reporting harassment.

4
5 Harassment and misconduct will not be tolerated under any circumstances and
6 will be dealt with in the strictest of terms. We must all take responsibility for
7 creating and ensuring a healthy and safe work environment. Employees who
8 experience or witness harassment, misconduct, or any inappropriate activity
9 should report it to the proper authority immediately.

10 **Examples of Harassment and Misconduct**

- 12 • **Physical conduct** - Unwelcome touching, standing too close, looking up
13 and down, inappropriate or threatening staring or glaring, obscene,
14 threatening, or offensive gestures.
- 15 • **Verbal or written misconduct** - Inappropriate references to body parts;
16 derogatory or demeaning comments, jokes, or personal questions; sexual
17 innuendoes; offensive remarks about race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity,
18 or sexual orientation, obscene letters or telephone calls, catcalls, whistles or
19 sexually suggestive sounds.
- 20 • **Visual or symbolic misconduct** - Display of nude pictures, scantily-clad,
21 or offensively-clad people; display of offensive, threatening, demeaning, or
22 derogatory symbols, drawings, cartoons, or other graphics; offensive
23 clothing or beverage containers, bumper stickers, or other articles.
- 24 • **Hazing** - Hazing is considered a form of harassment. “Hazing” is defined
25 as “any action taken, or situation created intentionally, to produce mental or
26 physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule.”
- 27 • **Alcohol** - The use of alcohol during any work period is strictly prohibited.
28 The performance of job duties while under the influence of alcohol is
29 prohibited. Underage personnel alcohol use is prohibited at all times.

30 **BLM Mobile Fire Equipment Policy**

31 **Introduction**

32
33 The following section represents a general overview of the BLM Mobile Fire
34 Equipment Policy. The policy can be found in its entirety on the BLM National
35 Fire Equipment Program (NFEP) Website, located within the BLM Fire
36 Operations website.

37 **Policy and Guidance**

38
39 The BLM fire equipment program is responsible for the design, development,
40 and acquisition of specialized wildland fire equipment to meet the full range of
41 fire management requirements. The design and development is accomplished
42 through the analysis of performance needs required by BLM field units and
43 working with industry to produce prototypes for testing and eventually
44 production units. Acquisition of equipment is accomplished primarily through
45 contracting. The BLM fire equipment program balances advanced technology

1 with overall cost efficiency to provide maximum safety for personnel while
2 effectively meeting fire management needs.

3

4 It is agency policy to maintain each piece of fire equipment at a high level of
5 performance and in a condition consistent with the work it has been designed to
6 perform. This shall be accomplished through application of a uniform
7 preventive maintenance program, timely repair of components damaged while
8 on assignment, and in accordance with all agency fiscal requirements. Repairs
9 shall be made as they are identified to keep the equipment functional and in peak
10 operating condition.

11

12 **Fire Equipment Committees**

13 There are three levels of fire equipment committees: National, State, and
14 Interagency. Fire equipment committees address the broad spectrum of
15 equipment subjects and make recommendations. State committees will report to
16 the respective State Fire Management Officer. The BLM Fire Equipment Group
17 and the BLM Engine Committee report to the Fire Operations Group (FOG).
18 Equipment committees should invite other agency equipment leads to share
19 ideas, transfer technology, and coordinate efforts.

20

21 **BLM National Fire Equipment Program (NFEP)**

22 The BLM National Fire Equipment Program (NFEP) is located at NIFC. This
23 unit is responsible for the development, ordering, inspection, receiving, and
24 distribution of new fire equipment that will meet or exceed the minimum
25 performance standards established by the BLM Fire Equipment Group and the
26 BLM Engine Committee. The NFEP website is located within the BLM Fire
27 Operations website.

28

29 **BLM Fire Equipment Status Report (FES)**

30 Each state will submit an FES report to the NFEP annually by April 15. The
31 FES is required to gather baseline data including the license number, type,
32 make/model and location on mobile asset types (i.e., engines, off-highway
33 vehicles and support vehicles). The Division of Fire Operations will issue an
34 annual reminder notification to the Fire Operations Group (FOG) requesting this
35 information. The FES is available at the NFEP section of the BLM Fire
36 Operations website.

37

38 **BLM Engine Use Report (EUR)**

39 All BLM engines will utilize the Engine Use Report. The EUR should be
40 printed and completed daily as part of the Fire Equipment Maintenance and
41 Procedure Record (FEMPR) and entered into the BLM EUR Share Point on a
42 monthly basis. Access will be granted by the respective state Fire Operations
43 Group (FOG) representative. The EUR is available at the Engine section of the
44 BLM Fire Operations website.

45

46

1 Equipment Development

2 The BLM NFEP has established a fire equipment development process to ensure
3 that new fire equipment or technologies meet or exceed established performance
4 standards. All new fire equipment will follow this development process and will
5 be tested and evaluated under actual field conditions prior to being made
6 available for general ordering.

8 Standardization

9 Standardization of fire equipment aids in the ability to produce equipment that
10 effectively meets the Bureau's mission by providing cost effective equipment
11 with the least impact on fire programs. Standardization also contributes to the
12 ability to provide effective, consistent, and quality training to the BLM fire
13 program workforce. The BLM Fire Equipment Group and the BLM Engine
14 Committee have the responsibility to establish and approve minimum
15 performance standards for all BLM-specific fire equipment.

17 Fire Engine and Command Vehicle Identifier Standards

18 Bureau of Land Management fire engine and command vehicle identifier
19 standards have been established by the national Fire Operations Group and can
20 be found at the BLM Fire Operations website.

22 Deficiency Reporting

23 The BLM Fire Equipment Improvement/Deficiency Reporting System is used to
24 collect improvement recommendations and deficiency reports for all BLM fire
25 equipment. The reporting system enables the BLM NFEP to build a
26 comprehensive database to document problems, identify trends, and establish
27 priorities for development and modification of new and existing equipment.

29 District/Field Offices are required to submit timely and detailed deficiency
30 reports for problems encountered with BLM fire equipment. Reports will also
31 be submitted for suggestions for improvement. Submitted reports will receive
32 immediate attention. The NFEP will immediately verify receipt of the
33 deficiency report and will follow-up with the submitting District/Field Office to
34 correct the deficiency or work to incorporate the improvement suggestion. The
35 Improvement/Deficiency Reporting System can be found on the BLM National
36 Fire Equipment Program website, located within the BLM Fire Operations
37 website.

39 Acquisition of Working Capital Fund Equipment

40 The National Operations Center (NOC) located in Denver manages the Working
41 Capital Fund (WCF). Each class of vehicle has an established replacement
42 cycle based on miles or hours, vehicle replacement costs, and residual value.
43 The WCF acquires funds through Fixed Ownership and Use Rates determined
44 by the replacement cycle. At the end of the replacement cycle, adequate funds
45 to replace the vehicle are available. For new vehicle purchases, funds are
46 acquired/secured by the receiving unit and the new purchase is added to the

1 WCF. The NOC monitors vehicle usage and replacement cycles, and notifies
2 the NFEP when vehicles need to be replaced. The NFEP then coordinates with
3 the receiving unit to order the replacement vehicle. When the order is placed,
4 the NFEP works with the BLM Fleet Manager, the receiving unit, contracting,
5 and the vendor to fill the order.

6

7 **Funding**

8 Procurement of nonstandard equipment with fire management funds when
9 standard equipment is available must have written approval by the FAD
10 Division of Operations Chief and the State Fire Management Officer. Most fire
11 vehicles are funded through the WCF. Other types of fire equipment are funded
12 through the normal budget process at the state and local level. Specialized
13 equipment may be funded in a variety of ways including through the Fire and
14 Aviation Directorate, special project allocations, available mid or year end
15 funds, state or local funding, interagency agreement, or through the WCF.

16

17 **BLM Mobile Fire Equipment Ordering**

18 Ordering of BLM mobile fire equipment is completed through the NFEP at
19 NIFC. Available equipment is listed in the BLM Fire Equipment Ordering
20 System (FEOS) web page. Contact the National Fire Equipment Program for
21 additional information.

22

23 States have the authority to order their own equipment using WCF funds.
24 However, the BLM has established required equipment and performance
25 standards for new equipment. These standards have been established to reduce
26 excessive procurement costs, maintain common operational functions, and
27 provide a Bureau wide standard fire fleet.

28

29 All WCF 600 class vehicles must be ordered through FEOS. If states order their
30 own equipment using WCF funds, they must have approval from the WCF Fleet
31 Manager, State Fire Management Officer, and the Chief, Division of Fire
32 Operations (FA-300) prior to ordering.

33

34 **Equipment Modification/Retrofitting**

35 Modification proposals must be submitted through the Improvement/Deficiency
36 reporting system or applicable FOG sub-committee for consideration and
37 approved through the NFEP. Unauthorized modifications and retrofits have the
38 potential to negatively impact equipment quality and safety and void
39 manufacturer warranties. In such cases, the financial burden of corrective action
40 will be borne by the home state/unit preparedness funding.

41

42 **Property Transfer/Replacement**

43 Surplus and early turn-in fire vehicles may be transferred to another unit for
44 continued service with the approval of the State Fire Management Officer and
45 the WCF Manager. In these instances, the vehicle remains in the same class,
46 and the FOR and use rates will continue to be charged to the unit acquiring the

1 vehicle. Units may dispose of fire vehicles prior to the normal replacement date.
2 In these instances, no future replacement is automatically provided and there is
3 no accrued credit for the FOR collected on that unit prior to disposal. Units
4 acquiring this type of equipment continue payment of the FOR and use rates.

5

6 **Conversions**

7 Offices requesting to convert replacement fire equipment to a different class of
8 equipment must follow and provide the following criteria and documentation:

- 9 • Proposed changes meet current and future preparedness requirements
10 identified in Resource/Land Management Plans and Fire Management
11 Plans.
- 12 • Proposed changes result in an overall cost savings to the government.

13

14 If any proposed changes in equipment result in additional overall costs to the
15 government, documentation must include:

- 16 • Increased production rates which may offset additional costs
- 17 • The requesting states availability of sufficient funds to cover additional
18 costs.

19

20 BLM units will use the standard form available on the BLM Fire Operations
21 website to provide required documentation for approval for conversions,
22 transfers, and excess vehicles.

23

24 **BLM Engine Equipment Inventory**

25 BLM engines will be stocked as per the BLM National Engine Equipment
26 Inventory found at the BLM Fire Operations Website.

27

28 **Fire Equipment Maintenance and Care Standards**

29 BLM fire equipment will be maintained to reflect the highest standards in
30 performance and appearance, and will meet the following standards:

- 31 • Equipment exterior:
 - 32 ○ Clean and waxed
 - 33 ○ Free of debris
 - 34 ○ Items secured
 - 35 ○ Windows and mirrors cleaned
 - 36 ○ All mechanical systems in good working order
- 37 • Equipment interior:
 - 38 ○ Cab and compartments free of dirt and debris
 - 39 ○ Cab free of loose items
 - 40 ○ Equipment stored in appropriate compartments and organized
 - 41 ○ Windows and mirrors cleaned
 - 42 ○ Mechanical systems in good working order

43

44 Equipment will be stored in sheltered areas away from environmental elements
45 whenever possible to prevent damage to critical seals, mechanical components,
46 and the high-visibility finish.

1 Fire Equipment Maintenance and Procedure Record (FEMPR)

2 The Fire Equipment Maintenance Procedure and Record (FEMPR) will be used
3 to document daily inspections and all maintenance for all WCF Class 600 fire
4 equipment and any other vehicles used for fire suppression operations. The
5 FEMPR shall be maintained and archived to record historic maintenance for the
6 duration of the vehicle's service life. This historical data is beneficial in
7 determining trends, repair frequency, and repair costs. The FEMPR can be
8 found at the BLM Fire Operations website.

9
10 Apparatus safety and operational inspections will be performed at the intervals
11 recommended by the manufacturer and on a daily and post-fire basis as required.
12 For engines and water tenders, all annual inspections will include a pump gpm
13 test to ensure the pump/plumbing system is operating at or above the
14 manufacturer's minimum rating for the pump.

15 BLM Implementation of the Department of the Interior (DOI)**16 Authorization for Use of Government Passenger Carrier(s) for Home-to-
17 Work Transportation**

18 The BLM recognizes the need for domiciling fire vehicles for specific positions
19 during fire season in order to provide for more immediate response to wildfires
20 during off-duty hours, and has been granted this authority by DOI.

- 21 • Only those positions authorized and pre-identified within the DOI
22 memorandum will have the authority to domicile designated government
23 vehicles.
- 24 • This authority is intended only for individuals in first response fire
25 leadership roles who may be responding to initial attack fires directly from
26 their home after hours.
- 27 • Government vehicles are used solely for official business and domiciled
28 only during core fire season months when there is a heightened level of
29 current or expected fire activity.
- 30 • Authorized positions will be recertified every two years and may be revised
31 at that time.
- 32 • Units are responsible for maintaining documentation of home-to-work use
33 of government vehicles. This documentation will be reviewed during
34 annual fire and aviation preparedness reviews. A BLM standard tracking
35 form has been developed and may be used for this purpose. It can be found
36 on the BLM Fire Operations website:
37 http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/toolbox.htm
- 38 • Refer to Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2013-023 for more
39 information.

40 Lights and Siren Response

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44 Responding to BLM wildland fire incidents normally does not warrant the use of
45 emergency lights and siren to safely and effectively perform the BLM mission.

- 1 However, there may be rare or extenuating circumstances when limited use of
2 lights and sirens are appropriate and necessary due to an immediate threat to life.
3
- 4 Those BLM state organizations that determine a lights and sirens response is
5 necessary to meet mission requirements must develop an operating plan that is
6 signed and approved by the State Director and forwarded to the Chief, Division
7 of Fire Operations, BLM FA. The operating plan must ensure the following:
- 8 1. All vehicles (command, engines, etc.) will be properly marked, equipped,
9 and operated in accordance with state statutes, codes, permits, and BLM
10 unit requirements.
 - 11 2. Drivers will complete training in the proper use of lights and sirens
12 response in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
13 1451 and 1002 standards, as well as any state requirements.
 - 14 3. Drivers responding with lights and sirens will be minimally qualified as
15 engine operator.
 - 16 4. Lights and sirens will meet NFPA and state code requirements.
 - 17 5. Posted speed limits will be followed at all times, regardless of response
18 type.
 - 19 6. Operators will stop or reduce speed as circumstances dictate prior to
20 proceeding through all intersections.
 - 21 7. Traffic light changing mechanisms (e.g., Opticons) will only be used under
22 formal written agreement with state and local governments. They will be
23 used only when they are necessary to create safe right-of-way through urban
24 high-traffic areas. All pertinent state and local statutes and procedures will
25 be adhered to.
 - 26 8. Authorization to respond with lights and sirens does not cross state lines.
27 No driver will be authorized by one state to operate with lights and sirens in
28 another state.

30 **BLM Firefighters**

32 **Introduction**

33 Firefighters operate within the Incident Command System (ICS), which is a
34 component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

35
36 In the ICS, firefighters are either assigned as single resource overhead
37 (individuals assigned to specific supervisory or functional positions) or as
38 members of an organized unit. The individuals within these units are trained to
39 provide different levels and types of tactical, logistical, and managerial
40 capability.

41 These units include:

- 43 • **Hand Crews** - Vehicle mobile firefighters that specialize in the use of hand
44 tools, chainsaws, portable pumps, and ignition devices for tactical
45 operations. Hand crew types include Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC),
46 Type 2 Initial Attack Crews, Type 2 Crews, and Fire Suppression Modules.

- 1 • **Engine Crews** - Engine mobile firefighters that specialize in the use of
- 2 engines for tactical operations.
- 3 • **Helitack** - Helicopter mobile firefighters that specialize in the use of
- 4 helicopters for tactical and logistical operations.
- 5 • **Smokejumpers** - Fixed wing aircraft and parachute mobile firefighters that
- 6 specialize in the use hand tools, chainsaws, and ignition devices for tactical
- 7 operations.
- 8

9 **BLM Firefighter Priority for Use**

- 10 • Initial attack on lands for which the BLM has suppression responsibility.
- 11 • Other fire suppression/management assignments on BLM lands.
- 12 • Other fire suppression/management assignments on other agency lands.
- 13 • All Hazard - ESF#4 reference:
- 14 http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/budget/Reference_docs/esf4/ESF4_page.htm
- 15 m
- 16

17 **Mobilization of BLM Firefighters**

18

19 BLM firefighters are mobilized to perform the following functions:

- 20 • Suppress fires and manage wildland fire incidents;
- 21 • Improve BLM initial attack capability;
- 22 • Maximize the utilization of limited BLM fire operational assets;
- 23 • Provide additional fire management capability in high tempo periods;
- 24 • Provide experience and developmental opportunities to BLM firefighters;
- 25 • Perform fire management project work or assignments; or
- 26 • Perform other project work or assignments.
- 27

28 There are six funding mechanisms for mobilizing BLM firefighters:

- 29 • Preparedness funding
- 30 • Suppression funding
- 31 • Short term severity (State/Regional Level Severity) funding
- 32 • National level severity funding
- 33 • National preposition funding
- 34 • State discretionary preposition funding
- 35

36 **Preparedness Funding**

37 Preparedness funding may be used to mobilize resources for normal

38 preparedness activities such as:

- 39 • Movement of resources within a unit not associated with fire activity;
- 40 • Detailing firefighters to fill vacant positions;
- 41 • Project work or normal preparedness activities; and/or
- 42 • Training.
- 43

1 Fire managers have the authority to expend preparedness funding for
2 preparedness activities. Mobilization of non-BLM federal resources with BLM
3 preparedness funding requires a reimbursable agreement.

4 5 **Suppression Funding**

6 Suppression funding is used to mobilize resources to wildland fire incidents.
7 BLM firefighters are mobilized directly to incidents using established methods
8 (resource orders, initial attack agreements, dispatch plans, response plans, etc.)

9 10 **Short Term Severity (State Level Severity)**

11 Short term severity funding may be used to mobilize resources for state/regional
12 short term severity needs that are expected to last less than one week, such as:

- 13 • Wind events;
- 14 • Cold dry front passage;
- 15 • Lightning events; and/or
- 16 • Unexpected events such as off-road rallies or recreational gatherings.

17
18 Each state director and the Fire and Aviation division chiefs for Operations and
19 Aviation have been delegated the authority to expend up to \$300,000 for “short
20 term” severity needs per fiscal year. This discretionary severity authorization
21 can be expended for appropriate severity activities without approval from Fire
22 and Aviation. States will establish a process for requesting, approving, and
23 tracking short term severity funds.

24 25 **National Level Severity Funding**

26 National level severity funding is used to mobilize resources to areas where:

- 27 • Preparedness plans indicate the need for additional
28 preparedness/suppression resources;
- 29 • Anticipated fire activity will exceed the capabilities of local resources;
- 30 • Fire season has either started earlier or lasted longer than identified in the
31 fire management plan; and/or
- 32 • An abnormal increase in fire potential or fire danger (i.e. high fine fuel
33 loading, fuel dryness) not planned for in existing preparedness plans.

34
35 Guidance for requesting and utilizing national level severity funding is found in
36 Chapter 10 and on the BLM Fire Operations website. Requests should be
37 consolidated by state, coordinated with Fire and Aviation, and then submitted to
38 Fire and Aviation by the State Director. The official memo requesting funds
39 should be mailed to the Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation. An electronic
40 copy should also be e-mailed to “BLM_FA_Severity@blm.gov”.

41
42 Severity funding requests will be accepted and approved for a maximum of 30
43 days, regardless of the length of the authorization. Use of severity funding must
44 be terminated when abnormal conditions no longer exist. If the fire severity

1 situation extends beyond the 30-day authorization, the state must prepare a new
2 severity request.

3
4 An approval memo from Fire and Aviation will list authorized resources along
5 with a cost string code for each state and field office to use for all resources. All
6 resources authorized through this process will be counted in the state's severity
7 authorization limit, including extension of exclusive use aircraft contracts.

8
9 In order to support the BLM national aviation strategy, which includes
10 prioritized allocation based on need, air resource mobility, and cost containment,
11 a state may be directed to release an air resource to another state. All charges
12 related to releasing an air resource will be covered by Fire and Aviation or the
13 receiving state.

14 15 **National Preposition Funding**

16 National preposition funding is used to mobilize resources to areas with
17 anticipated fire activity when other funding is not available. Units may request
18 national preposition funding from FA to acquire supplemental fire operations
19 assets to increase initial attack capability. National preposition funding may be
20 used to mobilize resources when BLM units:

- 21 • Do not have available preparedness funding;
- 22 • Do not have available short-term severity funding; or
- 23 • Do not meet the criteria for use of national severity funding.

24
25 Approved national preposition funding may be used only for travel and per diem
26 costs for the duration of the assignment, and overtime labor costs associated
27 with the original preposition move.

28
29 Each State Director has been delegated the authority to expend national
30 preposition funding within an allocation limit established annually through
31 issuance of an Instruction Memorandum. The criteria stated above apply to this
32 allocation.

- 33
34 • **National Preposition Request Process**
 - 35 ○ Unit FMO identifies need and notifies State FOG representative. FOG
36 representative informs SFMO.
 - 37 ○ FOG representative coordinates with unit FMO to verify need and
38 determine asset types, numbers, and projected preposition location.
 - 39 ○ Requesting FOG representative queries FOG group and identifies
40 available assets.
 - 41 ○ Requesting and sending FOG representatives jointly complete the BLM
42 Preposition Request Form found on the BLM Fire Operations website.
 - 43 ○ Requesting FOG representative will submit the request electronically
44 via e-mail to "BLM_FA_Prepositioning@blm.gov" to acquire Division
45 of Fire Operations (FA-300) approval. If aviation assets are requested,

- 1 FA-300 will coordinate with the National Aviation Office (FA-500)
- 2 and secure FA-500 approval.
- 3 ○ FA-300 will notify the requesting and sending FOG representatives via
- 4 e-mail when the request is approved.
- 5 ○ After securing FA-300/500 approval, the requesting FOG
- 6 representative places name request order(s) for specified assets through
- 7 normal coordination system channels.
- 8 ○ Responding BLM assets will be assigned to a temporary host unit by
- 9 the receiving FOG representative.
- 10 ○ Responding assets, sending/receiving FOG representatives, and the
- 11 temporary host unit will negotiate length of assignment and crew
- 12 rotation, and ensure that prepositioned personnel meet work/rest
- 13 requirements.

14
15 BLM preposition funding request information can be found at the BLM Fire
16 Operations website.

17 **State Discretionary Preposition Funding**

18 Each State Director has been delegated the authority to expend preposition
19 funding for prepositioning activities in amounts determined by the BLM Fire
20 Leadership Team. This discretionary preposition funding authorization can be
21 expended for appropriate preposition activities (according to the criteria
22 established for National Preposition Funding) without approval from the AD,
23 FA.

24
25
26 Each state will establish a process to document requests and approvals, and
27 maintain information in a file.

28 **BLM Fire Training and Workforce Development**

29 **BLM Fire Training and Workforce Development Program**

30
31 The BLM National Fire Training and Workforce Development Program is
32 located at NIFC and works for the BLM Chief, Preparedness/Suppression
33 Standards. The program develops the wildland firefighting workforce through
34 qualification standards, training standards, and workforce development
35 programs in support of BLM fire management.

36 ***BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development***

37
38 The BLM Fire Training and Workforce Development Program, in coordination
39 with the BLM Fire Operations Group and the BLM Fire Training Committee, is
40 responsible for publishing the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce*
41 *Development*. The *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce*
42 *Development* provides fire and aviation training, qualifications, and workforce
43 development program management direction. This document is available at
44 http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training.html.

45
46

1 **BLM Firefighters General Non-Fire Training Requirements**

Employment Category	Training Required	Initial Requirement/ Frequency	Delivery Method/ Responsible Party
Administratively Determined (AD) and Emergency Firefighters (EFF)	Defensive Driving (If operating GOV, including rental or leased, vehicle for official purposes.	-Prior to operating motor vehicle for official purposes. -Once every three years.	-Instructor-led (initial) -DOI Learn or Instructor-led (recurrency) -Unit Safety Manager
	First Aid/ Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	Upon initial employment. - Every 3 years or per certifying authority. At least two persons per crew (GS or AD) shall be current and certified.	-Instructor-led -Unit Safety Manager
Employment Category	Training Required	Initial Requirement/ Frequency	Delivery Method/ Responsible Party
Agency Permanent, Career Seasonal, & Temporary Firefighters	Safety Orientation	-Once	Instructor-led Supervisor
	Bloodborne Pathogens	-Once: Awareness level. For employees not at increased risk (e.g. non-fireline support personnel) -Annually: For employees at increased risk due to assigned duties (e.g. IHC, Helitack, SMJ, Engine Crew)	Instructor-led Unit Safety Manager
	Defensive Driving	-Prior to operating motor vehicle for official purposes. -Once every three years.	-Instructor-led (initial) -DOI Learn or Instructor-led (recurrency) -Unit Safety Manager
	First Aid/ Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	-Upon initial employment. -Every 3 years or per certifying authority.	-Instructor-led -Unit Safety Manager
	HAZMAT - First Responder Awareness Level	-Upon initial employment. -Annually.	-Instructor-led -Unit Safety Manager
	<i>USGS Hazard Communications-GHS</i>	Upon initial employment.	-Instructor-led, DOI Learn -Unit Safety Manager,

			Unit Hazardous Materials Coordinator (Refer to WO IM No. 2013-100)
	Do What's Right/EEO/ Diversity	-Annually.	-Instructor-led, DOI Learn, or as determined by EEO Manager -FMO (Do What's Right) -EEO Manager

1 For a complete listing of safety & health training - refer to *BLM Manual*
 2 *Handbook 1112-2, Safety and Health for Field Operations.*

3

4 **Driver Training for Regular Drivers of Fire Equipment**

5 All regular drivers of engines, water tenders, helicopter support vehicles, crew
 6 carriers, fuel tenders, and fire command and support vehicles must complete
 7 BL-300 *Fire Vehicle Driver Orientation* (initially) and RT-301 *Fire Vehicle*
 8 *Driver Refresher Training* (annually). Course materials are available at the
 9 BLM Fire Training website at:

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

11

12 For the purposes of this policy, a regular driver is defined as an employee whose
 13 duties include driving fire equipment on a regular basis. This may include
 14 highway, off-road, city, mobile attack, and extreme terrain driving.

15

16 **BLM Firefighter Mandatory Physical Fitness Standards**

17 The *Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide* (PMS 310-1) establishes
 18 physical fitness standards for NWCG sanctioned firefighters. These standards
 19 are assessed using the Work Capacity Tests (WCT). Prior to attempting the
 20 WCT, all permanent, career-seasonal, temporary, Student Career Experience
 21 Program (SCEP), and AD/EFF employees who participate in wildland fire
 22 activities requiring a fitness level of arduous must participate in the DOI
 23 Medical Qualification Standards Program (DOI-MSP).

24

25 Employees serving in wildland fire positions that require a fitness rating of
 26 arduous as a condition of employment are authorized one hour of duty time each
 27 work day for physical fitness conditioning. Employees serving in positions that
 28 require a fitness rating of moderate or light may be authorized up to three hours
 29 per week.

30

31 Units will maintain a fitness program that ensures BLM firefighters will possess
 32 the physical ability to perform the duties of their positions safely and effectively
 33 while ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Work Capacity Test
 34 (WCT).

35

1 Information on the WCT and the DOI-MSP is located in Chapter 13 of this
 2 publication. Fitness and conditioning information may be found at
 3 www.nifc.gov/FireFit/index.htm.

5 **BLM National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge**

6 The BLM national fire operations fitness challenge encourages and recognizes
 7 achievement in physical fitness by BLM firefighters. The fitness challenge
 8 provides a common system by which BLM firefighters can measure current
 9 fitness, establish fitness goals, and track fitness improvement. The fitness
 10 challenge is voluntary, but BLM firefighters are encouraged to participate and,
 11 at a minimum, meet the level 1 achievement. The fitness challenge tests
 12 participants in four basic exercises - push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and a timed run
 13 of either 1.5 or 3.0 miles. Test results are compiled into a final overall score.
 14 Unit and state offices are encouraged to support and recognize achievement in
 15 firefighter fitness. The BLM FA Division of Fire Operations will recognize
 16 high achievers annually. Specific information on the fitness challenge, the
 17 points chart, and the score sheet are located in the Toolbox section of the BLM
 18 Fire Operations Website.

19
 20 Achievement levels:

- 21 • Level 1: 100 points, minimum 20 points per event
- 22 • Level 2: 100 points, minimum 25 points per event
- 23 • Level 3: 200 points, minimum 25 points per event
- 24 • Level 4: 300 points, minimum 25 points per event
- 25 • Level 5: 400 points (maximum score)

Scoring					
Points	3-mile Run	1.5 Mile Run	Pull-ups (3 Mins)	Push-ups (3 mins)	Sit-ups (3 mins)
20	26:43	11:40	6	23	36
25	25:20	11:00	7	25	40
50	22:30	9:30	10	35	60

26
 27

28 **Interagency Fire Program Management Standards**

29 The BLM follows the *Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications*
 30 *Standards and Guide (IFPM Standard)*, January 2000. The IFPM Standard
 31 does the following:

- 32 • Establishes minimum qualifications standards for 13 key fire management
 33 positions. These standards include 1) basic requirements, 2) specialized
 34 experience requirements, 3) NWCG incident management qualifications, 4)
 35 additional required training.
- 36 • Provides a “complexity rating for program management” table, which is
 37 used to determine overall complexity of the unit level fire program. This is
 38 used because qualification standards for some of the 13 identified positions
 39 are tied to fire program complexity.

- 1 State and unit level fire managers should consult human resources officials and
 2 apply the IFPM Standard as appropriate. IFPM information is located at:
 3 <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov>

5 BLM Hand Crews

7 BLM Hand Crew Standards (all crew types)

- 8 • **Language** - CRWB and FFT1: must be able to read and interpret the
 9 language of the crew as well as English.
- 10 • **Flight Weight** – 5300 pounds.
- 11 • **Personal gear** - Sufficient for 14 day assignments.
- 12 • **Physical fitness** - Arduous, all positions.
- 13 • **Required Equipment & PPE** - Fully equipped as specified in the
 14 *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.*

16 BLM Hand Crew Standards by Type

Crew Type	Type 1	Type 2IA	Type 2	Fire Suppression Module
Crew Size	Minimum 18 Maximum 25	Minimum 18 Maximum 20	Minimum 18 ¹ Maximum 20	Minimum 5 Maximum 10
Leadership Qualifications	1-Supt 1-Assist Supt 3-Squad Leaders or 1-Supt 2-Assist Supt 2-Squad Leaders	1 CRWB 3 ICT5	1 CRWB 3 FFT1	1 SRB/ICT5 2 FFT1 2 FALA
Incident Management Capability	Operate up to 3 independent squads w/ T4 and T5 command capability	Operate up to 3 independent squads with T5 command capability	Operate as single crew in full crew configuration	Operates as a single module w/T5 command capability
Language Requirement	All senior leadership including Squad Bosses and higher must be able to read and interpret the language of the crew as well as English.			
Crew Experience	80% of the crewmembers must have at least 1 season experience in fire suppression	60% of the crewmembers must have at least 1 season experience in fire suppression	20% of the crewmembers must have at least 1 season experience in fire suppression	Agency only
Full Time Organized Crew	Yes (work and train as a unit 40 hrs per week)	No	No	No
Crew Utilization	National Shared Resource	Local unit control	Local unit control	Local unit control
Communication	7 programmable handheld radios. 1 programmable	4 programmable handheld radios	4 programmable handheld radios	2 programmable handheld radios

	mobile radio in each truck			
Crew Type	Type 1	Type 2IA	Type 2	Fire Suppression Module
Sawyers	3 FAL2	3 FAL3	None	None
Training	40 hours annual training prior to assignment.	40 hours Basic firefighter training or once red carded; 4 hours annual fireline refresher training prior to assignment.	40 hours Basic firefighter training or once red carded; 4 hours annual fireline refresher training prior to assignment.	40 hours Basic firefighter training or once red carded; 4 hours annual fireline refresher training prior to assignment.
Logistics	Squad level agency purchasing authority	Crew level agency purchasing authority recommended	No purchasing authority	Self-sufficient for 48 hours; purchasing authority recommended
Maximum Weight	5300 lbs			N/A
Dispatch Availability	Available Nationally	Available Nationally	Variable	Variable
Production Factor	1.0	.8	.8	Variable
Transportation	Own transportation	Need transportation	Need transportation	Own transportation
Tools & Equipment	Fully equipped, Crew First Aid Kit	Not equipped	Not equipped	Variable
Personal Gear	Arrives with: personal first aid kit, headlamp, 1 qt canteen, web gear, sleeping bag, personal gear for 14 days			
PPE	All standard designated fireline PPE			
Certification	Must be annually certified by the local host unit Agency Administrator or designee prior to being made available for assignment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Works together 40 hours/week	Yes	No	No	No

1 ¹ As per the *Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide*, for mobilization within
 2 Alaska, Type 2 EFF crews will consist of 16 personnel: one crew boss, a
 3 minimum of two squad bosses and the remainder to be crew members and/or
 4 trainees.

5
 6
 7

1 **BLM Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHCs)**

2 BLM IHCs will meet all requirements found in the *Standards for Interagency*
 3 *Hotshot Crew Operations (SIHCO)* and the *Interagency Standards for Fire and*
 4 *Fire Aviation Operations* while providing a safe, professional, mobile, and
 5 highly skilled hand crew for all phases of fire management and incident
 6 operations.

7

8 **BLM IHC Locations**

State	Crew	Location
AK	Chena	Fairbanks
	Midnight Sun	
CA	Diamond Mountain	Susanville
	Kern Valley	Bakersfield
CO	Craig	Craig
ID	Snake River	Pocatello
MS	Jackson	Jackson
NV	Silver State	Carson City
NV	Ruby Mountain	Elko
OR	Vale	Vale
UT	Bonneville	Salt Lake City

9

10 **BLM IHC Annual Crew Mobilization**

11 Prior to becoming available for mobilization, each BLM IHC will complete the
 12 BLM Hotshot Crew Preparedness Review Checklist (#18) and the Annual IHC
 13 Mobilization Checklist (SIHCO, Appendix C). The IHC Superintendent,
 14 supervising fire management officer, and supervising agency administrator will
 15 complete both checklists. Completed and signed checklists will be sent to the
 16 State Fire Management Officer for concurrence. Upon concurrence, the State
 17 Fire Management Officer will notify the appropriate Geographic Area
 18 Coordination Center and the Branch Chief, Preparedness and Suppression
 19 Standards (FA-320) of crew status, and provide copies of the BLM Hotshot
 20 Crew Preparedness Review Checklist (#18) and the Annual IHC Mobilization
 21 Checklist (SIHCO, Appendix C) to each.

22

23 For BLM IHCs based in the Eastern and Southern Geographic Areas, the
 24 process outlined above will be followed, with the Branch Chief, Preparedness
 25 and Suppression Standards will serving as the State Fire Management Officer.

26

27

28

29

1 **BLM IHC Decertification and Recertification**

2 Changes to crew qualifications and capabilities should be closely examined by
 3 the superintendent to ensure that all requirements contained in the SIHCO are
 4 met. Any BLM IHC that is unable to meet the minimum requirements will be
 5 placed in Type 2IA status until the requirements can be met. Exceptions to the
 6 requirements must be requested by the State Fire Management Officer (for IHCs
 7 based in the Eastern and Southern Geographic Areas, the request must be made
 8 by the State Director, Eastern States), and may be granted on a case-by-case
 9 basis by the Chief, Division of Fire Operations (FA-300).

10
 11 Short term inability to meet the requirements may not necessarily require
 12 recertification, but will require completion of the Annual IHC Mobilization
 13 Checklist (SIHCO, Appendix C) and concurrence from the Branch Chief,
 14 Preparedness and Suppression Standards before regaining IHC status. Longer
 15 term or more significant failures to meet the requirements may require the full
 16 recertification process as stated in the SIHCO, with oversight from the Division
 17 of Fire Operations.

18
 19 **BLM IHC Crew Size**

20 BLM IHCs will have a minimum of 18 personnel, and a maximum of 25
 21 personnel. BLM IHC superintendents will obtain prior approval from the
 22 respective GACC when the assignment requires fixed wing transport of an IHC
 23 with more than 20 personnel.

24
 25 **BLM IHC Status Reporting System**

26 BLM IHCs will utilize the National IHC Status Reporting System to report
 27 availability, assignment status, and unavailability periods. Refer to Chapter 13
 28 for instructions on how to report.

29
 30 **BLM IHC Training and Qualification Requirements**

Role	NWCG Qualification	Fire Training
Firefighter	FFT2	IS-700 <i>NIMS: An Introduction</i> I-100 <i>Intro to ICS</i> S-130 <i>Firefighter Training</i> S-190 <i>Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior</i> L-180 <i>Human Factors on the Fireline</i>
Senior Firefighter	FFT1	All the above plus: S-211 <i>Portable Pumps and Water Use</i> S-212 <i>Chain Saws</i> S-131 <i>Firefighter Type 1</i> S-133 <i>Look Up, Look Down, Look Around</i> S-270 <i>Basic Air Operations</i> S-290 <i>Intermediate Fire Behavior</i>

Squad Boss	ICT5 CRWB ¹	All the above plus: I-200 <i>Basic ICS</i> S-215 <i>Fire Ops in the WUI</i> S-230 <i>Crew Boss Single Resource</i> S-219 <i>Firing Operations</i> S-260 <i>Incident Business Management</i> L-280 <i>Followership to Leadership</i>
Assistant Superintendent	STCR ICT4	All the above plus: IS-800B <i>NRF: An Introduction</i> I-300 <i>Intermediate ICS</i> S-200 <i>Initial Attack IC</i> S-330 <i>Task Force/Strike Team Leader</i> S-390 <i>Intro to Fire Behavior Calculations</i> L-380 <i>Fireline Leadership</i> M-410 <i>Facilitative Instructor or equivalent</i>
Superintendent	TFLD ICT4 FIRB	All the above.

¹ CRWB will be required for BLM IHC Squad Bosses on October 1, 2017.

2

3 **BLM Fire Suppression Modules**

4 BLM Fire Suppression Modules are comprised of 5-10 firefighters and are used
5 primarily for wildfire suppression, fuels reduction, and other fire management
6 duties. They are capable of performing self-contained initial attack suppression
7 operations, and can generally provide incident management capability at the
8 Type 5 level.

9

10 **BLM Fire Suppression Module Mobilization**

11 BLM Fire Suppression Modules will be statused, tracked, and mobilized in the
12 ROSS system, using the resource identifier "Module, Suppression".

13

14 **BLM Wildland Fire Modules**

15 Refer to Chapter 13.

16

17 **BLM Engines**

18

19 BLM engines carry 2-6 firefighters and are used primarily for wildfire
20 suppression, fuels reduction, and other fire management duties. They are
21 capable of performing self-contained initial attack suppression operations, and
22 can generally provide single resource incident management capability up to the
23 Type 4 level.

24

25 **BLM Engine Ordering**

- 26 • BLM engines will status themselves with their local dispatch center in
27 accordance with local policy and procedure.
- 28 • Availability of BLM engines for off unit assignments rests with local unit
29 fire management.

- 1 • BLM units needing engines from another state for support will contact their
- 2 state operations lead with a request.
- 3 • The state operations lead will contact the FA Division of Operations or
- 4 other BLM state office operations leads with the request.

5

6 **BLM Engine Typing**

7 BLM engines are typed according to interagency standards as established by

8 NWCG. See chapter 14 for engine typing standards.

9

10 **BLM Engine Minimum Staffing Requirements**

11 All BLM engines will meet these staffing standards on every fire response:

- 12 • BLM engines operating with five or more personnel will always have a
- 13 fully qualified ENOP (other than the Engine Boss). The Engine Boss must
- 14 be qualified as ICT4;
- 15 • BLM engines operating with four personnel will always have an FFT1
- 16 (other than the Engine Boss). The Engine Boss must be qualified as ICT5;
- 17 • BLM Engines operating with three or fewer personnel must have an Engine
- 18 Boss qualified as ICT5 or higher; and
- 19 • Chase vehicles are considered part of the engine staffing.

20

21 BLM utilizes the term “Engine Captain” to describe an individual whose

22 position description reflects primary responsibility as a supervisory wildland

23 firefighter of a wildland fire engine in a BLM fire management organization.

24 “Engine Captain” is not a fireline qualification.

25

BLM WCF Vehicle Class	NWCG Type Class	Engine Boss	Engine Operator	Engine Crewmember
625 Unimog	4	1	1	1
626 Unimog	4	1	1	1
650 Hummer	6	1		1
662 Light	6	1		1
663 Light	6	1		1
664 Enhanced Light	6	1		1
665 Interface	3	1		2
667 Heavy Engine	3, 4	1		2
668 Super-heavy Engine ¹	3, 4	1	1	1
668 Super-heavy Tactical Tender ¹	2 (Tender)	1		1
669 Tactical Water Tender	1, 2 (Tender)		1	1
669 Non-Tactical Water Tender ²	1, 2, 3 (Tender)	See footnote 2 below		

¹ All WCF class 668 super-heavy engines will be minimally staffed as type 3 or 4 engines with an engine boss, engine operator, and engine crewmember. All WCF class 668 super-heavy tactical water tenders (2 seats, Tatra chassis, volume pump rated at 250 GPM and 150 PSI or better) will be minimally staffed with an engine boss and an engine crewmember.

² A WCF class 669 non-tactical water tender may be staffed with a crew of one driver/operator when it is used in a support role as a fire engine refill unit or for dust abatement. These operators do not have to pass the Work Capacity Test (WCT) but are required to take annual refresher training, and possess a CDL with tank endorsement, and air brake endorsement (if applicable).

When staffing a BLM engine with an employee from another agency on a short-term basis (detail, severity assignment, etc.), the qualification standards of that agency will be accepted. These qualifications must meet PMS 310-1 requirements for the position that the detailed employee is serving in. Fire management officers should consider requiring these employees to attain BLM required training and qualifications for long-term details/assignments.

BLM Engine Training and Qualification Requirements

BLM has established additional training and qualification requirements for Engine Operator (ENOP) and Engine Boss (ENGB). These additional requirements are listed below.

Fireline Position	Required Training and Qualifications
Engine Crewmember	IS-700 <i>NIMS: An Introduction</i> I-100 <i>Intro to ICS</i> L-180 <i>Human Factors on the Fireline</i> S-130 <i>Firefighter Training</i> S-190 <i>Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior</i>
Engine Operator	Qualified as FFT1 PMS- 419 <i>BLM Engine Operator Course</i> L-280 <i>Followership to Leadership</i> S-131 <i>Firefighter Type 1</i> S-133 <i>Look Up/Down/Around</i> S-211 <i>Pumps and Water Use</i> S-212 <i>Wildfire Power Saws</i> S-260 <i>Incident Business Management</i> S-290 <i>Intermediate Fire Behavior</i>
Engine Boss	Qualified as ENOP and ICT5 I-200 <i>Basic ICS</i> S-215 <i>Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface</i> S-230 <i>Crew Boss (Single Resource)</i> S-290 <i>Intermediate Fire Behavior</i>

24

1 BLM Engine Driver Requirements

2 For engines greater than 26,000 GVWR, the driver of the engine is required to
3 possess a commercial driver's license. Refer to Chapter 7 for more information.

4
5 WCF class 650 and 668 vehicle drivers are required to complete *WCF class 650*
6 *and 668 driver and maintenance training* (once). *WCF class 650 and 668 driver*
7 *and maintenance training* may be conducted at the unit/zone/state level utilizing
8 qualified and experienced 650 and 668 operators, with prior approval and
9 oversight by the NFEP. The NFEP maintains a list of qualified cadre members
10 to assist as needed. NFEP staff are available as unit instructors; the hosting unit
11 is responsible for course coordination.

12
13 All hands-on components of engine driver training courses will be conducted on
14 the specific vehicle or vehicle type that the driver will be using.

15
16 Equivalent courses that satisfy driver training requirements, such as the National
17 Safety Council sanctioned Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC), will
18 be approved in writing by the Division Chief, Fire Operations, FA on a case-by-
19 case basis.

20
21 BLM engine driver training satisfies the Bureau requirement for 4X4 driver
22 training stated in H-1112-1, Chapter 15.

23
24 BLM Smokejumpers

25
26 BLM Smokejumpers operate in teams of 2-8 firefighters and are used primarily
27 for wildfire suppression, fuels reduction, and other fire management duties.
28 They are capable of performing self-contained initial attack suppression
29 operations, and commonly provide incident management capability at the Type
30 3 level. BLM Smokejumpers provide personnel to Type 1 and Type 2 incidents
31 as command and general staff or other miscellaneous single resource. The
32 primary locations of the BLM smokejumper bases are Boise, Idaho and
33 Fairbanks, Alaska.

34
35 BLM SMKJ Operations

36 BLM smokejumper operational and administrative procedures are located in the
37 *Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide (ISMOG)*, the *BLM Ram-Air*
38 *Training Manual (RATM)*, the *Great Basin Smokejumpers User Guide*, *Alaska*
39 *Geographic Area Coordination Center Mob Guide*, and other pertinent
40 agreements and operating plans.

41
42 BLM Smokejumper Mission

43 BLM smokejumper aircraft are dispatched with a standard load of 8
44 smokejumpers and equipment to be self-sufficient for 48 hours. A typical
45 smokejumper mission takes 30 minutes over a fire. A spotter (senior
46 smokejumper in charge of smokejumper missions) serves as the mission

1 coordinator on smokejumper missions. This may include coordinating airspace
2 over a fire until a qualified ATGS arrives.

3

4 **BLM SMKJ Coordination & Dispatch**

5 Smokejumpers are a national shared resource and are ordered according to
6 geographic area or national mobilization guides. The operational unit for
7 Smokejumpers is “one load” (8-20 smokejumpers). Specific information on the
8 coordination, dispatch, ordering, and use of BLM smokejumpers can be found in
9 the *BLM Great Basin Smokejumpers User Guide*, and in the *Alaska Geographic*
10 *Area Coordination Center Mob Guide*. Contact BLM smokejumpers in Boise at
11 (208) 387-5426 or in Alaska at (907) 356-5540 for these publications.

12

13 **BLM Ram-Air Parachute System Management**

14 The BLM has exclusive authority for all aspects of BLM Ram-Air parachute
15 system management and operations. This includes:

- 16 ● System Changes and Modifications- All BLM Ram-Air parachute system
17 modifications, research, and development will be documented and approved
18 using the BLM Smokejumper Modification Document (MODOC) System.
- 19 ● Ram-Air Training- All smokejumpers utilizing the BLM Ram-Air
20 Parachute system will adhere to the training processes and procedures in the
21 BLM Ram-Air Training Manual.
- 22 ● Malfunction Abnormality and Reporting System (MARS)- The MARS is a
23 BLM smokejumper system used to report and document malfunctions and
24 abnormalities associated with BLM smokejumper parachute jumping,
25 parachute equipment, and parachute related aircraft operations. The MARS
26 database is used by BLM smokejumper management to analyze
27 malfunctions and abnormalities, identify trends, and initiate corrective
28 actions. BLM retains exclusive authority to apply corrective actions to all
29 MARS.
- 30 ● BLM Approved Smokejumper Equipment List- All smokejumpers using the
31 BLM Ram-Air parachute system will only utilize equipment listed in the
32 BLM Approved Smokejumper Equipment List unless specific approval is
33 authorized through a BLM Smokejumper Modification Document
34 (MODOC).
- 35 ● Incidents, Reviews, and Accident Investigations- BLM smokejumpers will
36 follow all procedures for accident review and investigation as outlined in
37 the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* Chapters
38 2 and 18. The BLM smokejumpers will report incidents/accidents as
39 appropriate, on the MTDC Injury Reporting Form, and the Interagency
40 Smokejumper Mission Incident Worksheet. A BLM Smokejumper subject
41 matter expert will participate in any investigation or review involving the
42 BLM Ram-Air Parachute System.
- 43 ● Adherence to Agency Policies and Manuals- BLM will adhere to its own
44 policies, guidelines, manuals, handbooks and other operational documents
45 as they pertain to smokejumper parachuting operations. The Smokejumper
46 Base Managers will work through established command channels to change

1 BLM Ram-Air Parachute System policies, guidelines, manuals, handbooks
2 and other operational documents, and/or to request research and
3 development of new products.

4
5 **BLM Smokejumper Aircraft**

6 BLM Smokejumpers use aircraft approved by the Interagency Smokejumper
7 Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board (SASEB). All aviation operations will
8 be performed according to agency policies and procedures. BLM Smokejumper
9 specific aviation standards are identified in the BLM Smokejumper Air
10 Operations Manual.

11
12 **BLM SMKJ Training**

13 To ensure proficiency and safety, smokejumpers complete annual training in
14 aviation, parachuting, fire suppression, administration, and safety. Experienced
15 jumpers receive annual refresher training in these areas. First year
16 smokejumpers undergo a rigorous 4-5 weeks long smokejumper training
17 program.

18
19 Candidates are evaluated to determine:

- 20 • Level of physical fitness
- 21 • Ability to learn and perform smokejumper skills
- 22 • Ability to work as a team member
- 23 • Attitude
- 24 • Ability to think clearly and remain productive in a stressful environment

25
26 **BLM Smokejumper Training and Qualification Targets**

Position	IQCS Target	SMKJ Training Target
Dept Managers	T1 and T2 C&G	
Spotter	ICT3, DIVS, ATGS RXB2, SOFR	
Senior Smokejumper	STLD, TFLD	Senior Rigger, FOBS
Smokejumper	ICT4, CRWB, FIRB	FEMO
Rookie Smokejumper	ICT5	

27
28 **BLM SMKJ Jump Proficiency Guideline**
29 To ensure proficiency and safety, it is the goal of BLM smokejumpers to
30 perform a training or operational jump every 14 days. A longer duration time
31 period between jumps can occur due to fire assignments or other duties.
32 Guidelines for managing gaps between jumps beyond 14 days are included in
33 the BLM Ram-Air Training Manual. Funding for currency and/or training
34 jumps are included in the home unit's normal preparedness budgets. Units
35 hosting contingents or spike bases will not be charged for any proficiency jump
36 or related activities.

37

1 **BLM Smokejumper Physical Fitness Standards**

2 The national smokejumper physical fitness standards are mandatory. All BLM
3 smokejumpers must pass the national smokejumper physical fitness standards in
4 order to participate in smokejumper parachute training.

5

6 The BLM smokejumper physical fitness target standards are voluntary. The
7 target standards are established to provide BLM smokejumpers a common
8 standard against which to gauge their physical fitness level. BLM
9 smokejumpers are encouraged to meet or exceed these standards.

10

National SMKJ Standard	BLM SMKJ Target Standard
1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes or less	(Three Options): A. 1.5 mile run in 9:30 minutes or less, or B. 3 mile run in 22:30 minutes or less, or C. 1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes or less in combination with backpacking a 90-pound load for three miles in less than 45 minutes.
45 sit-ups	60 sit-ups
25 push-ups	35 push-ups
7 pull-ups	10 pull-ups
Smokejumpers must pass a work performance standard for backpacking a 110 pound load three miles in less than 90 minutes*	Smokejumpers must pass a work performance standard for backpacking a 110 pound load three miles in less than 90 minutes*

11 *This element is tested during Smokejumper Rookie Training.

12

13 Retesting

14 National smokejumper physical fitness retesting criteria closely follows similar
15 criteria for the Work Capacity Test stated in chapter 13 of this document.

16

17 Retesting criteria include:

- 18 • Returning BLM smokejumpers will be provided up to three opportunities to
19 pass the national smokejumper physical fitness standards. Each retest will
20 occur no sooner than 24 hours after failing the previous test, and will
21 consist of **all** elements of the smokejumper physical fitness test.
- 22 • BLM smokejumper candidates will be provided one opportunity to pass the
23 national smokejumper physical fitness standards.
- 24 • If an employee sustains an injury (verified by a licensed medical provider)
25 during a test, the test will not count as an attempt. Once an injured
26 employee has been released for full duty, the employee will be given time
27 to prepare for the test (not to exceed 4 weeks).

28

1 **BLM Exclusive Use Helitack Crews**

2
3 The BLM contracts for the exclusive use of vendor supplied and supported
4 helicopters. These aviation resources are Type 2 (Medium) or Type 3 (light)
5 helicopters and are located at BLM Districts throughout the western United
6 States. Helitack Crews are assigned to manage each contracted helicopter and
7 perform suppression and support operations to accomplish fire and resource
8 management objectives.

9
10 Each contract specifies a Mandatory Availability Period (MAP) that the aircraft
11 will be assigned for the exclusive use of the BLM. The National Aviation
12 Office provides the funding to pay for the aircraft's availability costs.

13
14 The BLM host unit is responsible for providing a Helitack Crew that meets the
15 minimum experience and qualification requirements specified in the Exclusive
16 Use Fire Helicopter Position Prerequisites in Chapter 16 of this document. Each
17 functional or supervisory level must have met the experience and qualification
18 requirements of the next lower functional level. The minimum daily staffing
19 level (7 day staffing) must meet the level indicated in the *Interagency Helicopter*
20 *Operations Guide (IHOG)* Chapter 2 (BLM helicopters operated in Alaska need
21 only be staffed with a qualified Helicopter Manager).

22
23 The host unit is also responsible for providing administrative support, and
24 *Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)* specified equipment,
25 vehicles, and facilities for their Helitack Crews and any other associated
26 specialized equipment.

27 **BLM Exclusive Use Helicopter Locations**

State	Location	NWCG Type
AK	Fairbanks	2 (4 ea.), 3 (2 ea.)
AZ	Wickenburg	3 (shared with MT)
CA	Apple Valley	2
	Ravendale	3
CO	Rifle	3
ID	Boise	3
	Twin Falls	3
MT	Lewistown	3 (shared with AZ)
	Miles City	3
NV	Elko	3
	Ely	3
	Las Vegas	3
OR	Burns	3
	Lakeview	2
	Vale	3

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State	Location	NWCG Type
UT	Moab	3
	Salt Lake City	3
	St. George	3
WY	Rawlins	3

1

2 Target (Desired) Exclusive Use Helitack Crew Qualifications & 3 Composition

4 The following chart indicates **target** IQCS qualifications for BLM exclusive use
5 helitack crews. These targets are NOT required, but provide direction for
6 increased program capabilities. This chart does not replace the minimum
7 requirements specified in chapter 16.

8

Role	Target IQCS Qualifications	Target Training
Fire Helicopter Crew Supervisor	ICT3 or DIVS, HEB1, PLDO, HLCO, ASGS	S-300 or S-339, S-378, L-381, S-375
Assistant Fire Helicopter Crew Supervisor	TFLD, HEB2, PLDO	S-215, S-330, S-390, S-371, L-380
Fire Helicopter Squad Boss	ICT4, HMGB	S-200, S-230, S-290, M-410, S-230
Helicopter Senior Crew Member	ICT5, HMGB(T)	S-372, L-280
Helicopter Crew Member	FFT1, HECM	S-131, S-133

9

10 Management Actions for Noncompliant Remote Automatic Weather 11 Stations (RAWS)

12

13 Fire managers must be cognizant that all RAWS will not be 100% compliant
14 with standards established in the *Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station
15 Standards & Guidelines* (NWCG PMS 426-3) at all times. Furthermore, even
16 when RAWS are fully compliant and operational, RAWS data should be used
17 only in conjunction with other predictive services and fireline data sources in
18 fire management decision making, particularly at the tactical level.

19

20 Fire managers must monitor RAWS status and recognize when a station is
21 noncompliant. Noncompliant stations are broadly categorized as follows:

- 22 • Inoperative station. This station is noncompliant but poses no danger of
23 providing inaccurate weather data because it is not transmitting data.
- 24 • Operating station that has exceeded the required maintenance cycle. These
25 stations are identified in the weekly “Wildland Fire Management
26 Information (WFMI) weather Noncompliance Report”, which is widely
27 distributed by email and available at <http://raws.fam.nwcg.gov/nfdrs.html>.

- 1 Although transmitted data may be accurate, noncompliance means the data
2 should not be trusted.
- 3 • Operating station that transmits data outside of NWCG PMS 426-3
4 standards due to faulty sensors or components. These stations are most
5 easily identified by local users who are familiar with environmental trends
6 and conditions and can recognize data that seems abnormal or clearly
7 unrepresentative of current conditions. This usually indicates faulty sensors
8 or components.
- 9
- 10 When noncompliant RAWS are identified or suspected, fire managers should
11 implement the following hazard mitigation actions to expedite RAWS repair and
12 to reduce risk to fire personnel:
- 13 • Contact the RAWS Help Desk (208-387-5475 or rawshelp@blm.gov).
14 Identify the station and discuss troubleshooting steps or schedule the
15 necessary repairs. If there are trained personnel in the local area, the Help
16 Desk may be able to ship the required parts and coordinate the repairs via
17 phone. If a professional technician needs to make a site visit, provide a
18 local individual to assist, and use this opportunity to provide training for
19 local personnel.
 - 20 • Ensure that appropriate personnel and organizations know which stations
21 are out of compliance, and which sensors are affected, if possible. Direct
22 them to alternative weather data sources if possible.
 - 23 • Use nearby compliant RAWS if available.
 - 24 • Based on local knowledge of specific RAWS problems (e.g. which sensor is
25 out of compliance), separate reliable data from unreliable data.
 - 26 • Consider using data from belt weather kit readings, other portable device
27 observations, Predictive Services or National Weather Service offices, or
28 non-fire weather sources such as airports.

29
30 Fire managers should ensure that locally held portable RAWS are compliant
31 prior to use; noncompliant portable RAWS will not be activated for data
32 processing via WFMI-weather.

33 34 **Sage Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels** 35 **Management**

36
37 Firefighter and public safety has been, and continues to be, the BLM's highest
38 fire management priority. Protecting, conserving, and restoring sage-grouse
39 habitat is BLM fire management's highest natural resource objective.

40
41 The BLM's management responsibilities include taking actions on public lands
42 to control and manage wildfire and invasive plants in order to protect, conserve,
43 and restore sage-grouse habitat. The BLM's goal is to limit acres burned and
44 damaged within and adjacent to sage-grouse habitat. The BLM will meet this
45 goal through the certain management actions, including those involving
46 renewable resource authorizations, fuels management, fire operations, and

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1 emergency stabilization prioritization. The BLM will place a high priority on
2 treatments that will aid fire suppression and reduce fire threats within and
3 adjacent to sage-grouse habitat. The following provides guidance to convey
4 leader's intent while recognizing that not all of these actions and activities apply
5 to all affected offices and successful implementation may look different
6 throughout the BLM.

7

8 Prior to, during, and following wildland fires, BLM field offices will:

- 9 • Protect, conserve, and restore sage-grouse habitat.
- 10 • Strive to maintain and enhance resilience of sage-grouse habitat.
- 11 • Foster existing relationships with partners and develop new cooperative
12 relationships that will help bolster BLM capacity to protect sage grouse
13 habitat.

14

15 With regard to fire operations in sage grouse habitat, BLM field offices will:

- 16 • Prioritize firefighter and public safety including following our "Standard
17 Firefighting Orders", mitigate any "Watch-Out Situations", and apply the
18 principles of Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones
19 on all fire assignments.
- 20 • Maintain a strong and proactive preparedness capability when conditions
21 indicate potential for multiple ignitions and large fire growth.
- 22 • Maintain situational awareness during suppression resource drawdown
23 levels under multiple ignition and large fire growth conditions.
- 24 • Boost suppression capability in critical sage grouse habitat when severe fire
25 weather conditions are predicted.
- 26 • Generate interest in local residents and public land users becoming a trained
27 and equipped fire response force to work in concert with existing partners.
- 28 • Expand the use of Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) or
29 Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) suppression resources.
- 30 • Continue and expand efforts to train and use local, non-federal agency
31 individuals as liaisons in wildland fire detection and suppression operations.

32

33 With regard to Renewable Resources Programs, Fuels, Healthy Lands Initiative
34 (HLI), and Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation (ES&R), BLM field
35 offices will:

- 36 • Consider establishing fuel breaks, such as mowing, tilling, green-stripping,
37 and planting of fire resistant plant species in strategic locations to help
38 protect areas with sagebrush cover.
- 39 • Coordinate with State/County/Municipal highway and road departments on
40 road right-of-way maintenance programs to reduce fuel loads and the size
41 and spread of wildfire.
- 42 • Coordinate with partners including state, federal and private landowners to
43 design and implement fuels treatments that will minimize fire growth and
44 size.

- 1 • Consider reducing the cover of pinyon pine and juniper where it is
- 2 encroaching on sage-grouse habitat.
- 3 • Apply Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) practices in addressing
- 4 invasive and non-native species, including cheatgrass treatments and
- 5 sagebrush management.
- 6 • Increase sagebrush, perennial grass and forb cover.
- 7 • Protect soil from erosion following disturbance through planting and
- 8 seeding efforts.
- 9 ○ Strive to retain residual and functional post-fire plant species including
- 10 early seral native perennial grasses.
- 11 ○ Favor fire-resistant native or non-native plant species when necessary as a
- 12 first step toward habitat recovery.
- 13 ○ Use locally adapted native seed where available and probability of success
- 14 and funding allow.
- 15 ○ Consider using minimum till drills and multiple seed boxes, where
- 16 practical and available, to increase seeding success.
- 17 • Coordinate funding and planning within fuels, ESR, and renewable
- 18 resources programs to plan and implement treatments that meet landscape
- 19 objectives. This may include side-by-side treatments, and utilizing partner
- 20 funds to cover additions to ESR seed mixes that will conserve and restore
- 21 sage-grouse habitat.
- 22
- 23 The Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division (FA-600) hosts the webpage
- 24 containing updated maps, instruction memoranda, conservation measures, best
- 25 management practices, and spatial data pertaining to sage-grouse for the fire and
- 26 fuels management functions. These resources can be accessed at:
- 27 <http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fpfm/sg/index.html>. Using locally-developed
- 28 data to supplement these resources is encouraged.

29

30 **BLM Use of WFDSS**

31

32 In addition to WFDSS guidance in Chapter 11, the BLM has established the
33 following additional policy requirements for the WFDSS:

- 34 • Publishing decisions for initial attack fires in WFDSS is optional. All fires
- 35 which escape initial attack or are being managed for multiple objectives
- 36 require a published decision.
- 37 • Use of the web-based WFDSS application is required. If internet
- 38 connections or servers are unavailable, WFDSS documentation will be
- 39 completed using the “temporary WFDSS paper form” and entered into the
- 40 web-based application as soon as it becomes available.
- 41 • Minimum WFDSS documentation requirements are available at the BLM
- 42 Fire Operations Website.
- 43 • State and field units will ensure that WFDSS Strategic Objectives and
- 44 Management Requirements reflect guidance contained in current Fire
- 45 Management Plans and Land/Resource Management Plans.

- 1 • BLM units may use the Spatial Fire Planning process in WFDSS if criteria
2 in Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2014-010 are met.
 - 3 • BLM Agency Administrators must meet fire training requirements for
4 Agency Administrators, as specified in in this chapter.
 - 5 • BLM Agency Administrators will maintain WFDSS user profiles, allowing
6 them to approve wildfire decisions documented in WFDSS.
 - 7 • BLM approvers of wildfire decisions documented in WFDSS are displayed
8 in the Department of the Interior (DOI) WFDSS Approval Requirements
9 Table in Chapter 11 of this document.
 - 10 • Wildfire decisions, documented in WFDSS and approved by BLM Agency
11 Administrators, constitute awareness of estimated costs of all the courses of
12 actions (i.e. estimated final fire costs). This cost, shown in the WFDSS
13 Course of Action, will be developed from sources such as I-Suite, ICS-209
14 summaries, finance units within incident management teams, estimation
15 spreadsheets, or other sources.
 - 16 • To facilitate effective wildfire management, *MS-1203* has been amended to
17 delegate authority to local managers to approve all wildfire decisions
18 regardless of cost thresholds. BLM District/Field Managers will approve
19 wildfire decisions for fires which:
 - 20 ○ Escape initial attack;
 - 21 ○ Are managed for multiple objectives; or
 - 22 ○ Exhibit high complexity due to one or more of the following: values at
23 risk, potential for growth, potential duration, or other factors requiring
24 Agency Administrator awareness.
 - 25 • The BLM DM/FM is responsible for approval of wildfire decisions on
26 BLM-managed lands in Alaska.
 - 27 • To ensure awareness of suppression expenditures at all levels, local agency
28 administrators will provide written notification to state directors or the
29 bureau director as cost thresholds (Chapter 11) are approached or reached.
 - 30 • As approvers of WFDSS decisions, Agency Administrators will ensure that
31 periodic assessments are completed until the fire is declared out.
32
- 33 **Wildfire Decision Approval Process in Alaska for Non-BLM Lands:**
- 34 • In Department Manual 620 Chapter 2, BLM is delegated the responsibility
35 to provide cost-effective wildland fire suppression services on DOI-
36 managed and Alaska Native lands. In this direction, BLM-Alaska Fire
37 Service (AFS) participates in the wildfire decision approval process for fires
38 on those lands.
 - 39 • For fiscal purposes, The AFS Manager and AFS Fire Management Officers
40 serve as agency administrators for approving wildfire decisions documented
41 in WFDSS. Jurisdictional agencies are still responsible for identifying
42 strategic objectives, management requirements, and management
43 constraints.

- 1 ○ In addition to the Jurisdictional Agency Administrator, AFS Fire
2 Management Officers serve as agency administrators for fires less than
3 \$5 million.
- 4 ○ In addition to the Jurisdictional Agency Administrator, the AFS
5 Manager serves as an agency administrator for fires \$5 million and
6 greater.
- 7 ○ To ensure awareness of suppression expenditures at all levels, the AFS
8 Manager will provide written notification to the state director or the
9 bureau director as cost thresholds (Chapter 11) are approached or
10 reached.