

1 **Chapter 03**
2 **National Park Service Program Organization & Responsibilities**

3
4 **Introduction**

5
6 This chapter summarizes specific requirements for NPS fire management
7 programs. Fire managers should consult DO-18 Wildland Fire and RM-18
8 Wildland Fire for full guidance and descriptions of requirements summarized in
9 this chapter. If there is a discrepancy between guidance found in this document
10 and DO or RM-18, information contained herein will be considered authoritative
11 as updates occur on a more frequent cycle than either the DO or RM.

12
13 **NPS Wildland Fire Operations Website**

14
15 NPS Wildland Fire Operations maintains a website that hosts operational and
16 informational documents. The website also contains information about the
17 following programs: Wildland Fire Fleet and Facilities; Fuels; Safety and
18 Prevention; and Training, Qualifications and Workforce Development. The
19 address of the NPS Wildland Fire Operations website is:
20 <http://famshare.inside.nps.gov/default.aspx>

21
22 **Agency Administrator Roles**

23
24 **Director**

25 The Director of the National Park Service is responsible to the Secretary of the
26 Interior for fire management programs on public lands administered by the
27 National Park Service. The Division of Fire and Fire Aviation Management is
28 responsible to the Director for policy formulation and program oversight.

29
30 The Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management will meet the required
31 elements outlined in the *Management Performance Requirements for Fire*
32 *Operations*.

33
34 **Regional Director**

35 The Regional Director is responsible to the Director for fire management
36 programs and activities within their region.

37
38 The Regional Director will meet the required elements outlined in the
39 *Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations* and ensure
40 training is completed to support delegations to line managers and principal
41 acting.

42
43 **Park Superintendent**

44 The Park Superintendent is responsible to the Regional Director for the safe and
45 efficient implementation of fire management activities within their unit,
46 including cooperative activities with other agencies or landowners in accordance

- 1 with delegations of authorities. The Park Superintendent or principal acting will
 2 meet the required elements outlined in the *Management Performance*
 3 *Requirements for Fire Operations*.

4

5 **Agency Administrator Management Performance Requirements for Fire**
 6 **Operations**

7

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
1. Take necessary and prudent actions to ensure firefighter and public safety.	X	X	X
2. Ensures sufficient qualified fire and non-fire personnel are available each year to support fire operations at a level commensurate with the local and national fire situation. Ensures that all training and certification of fire and non-fire personnel is completed as required to support fire operations at the local and national level.	X	X	X
3. Ensure Fire Management Officers (FMOs) are fully qualified as identified in the <i>Interagency Fire Program Management Qualification Standards</i> .	X	X	X
4. Provide a written Delegation of Authority (DOA) on an annual basis to individual(s) responsible for wildland fire management activities to ensure an adequate level of operational authority. Depending on park organizational structure, written delegations may be provided to the Chief Ranger, Natural Resource Specialist, FMO, designated Fire Coordinator, Park Group FMO, or to individuals from neighboring fire management organizations, provided a written agreement or memorandum of understanding is in-place. Where applicable, an Inter-park Agreement that specifies the reciprocal responsibilities of the Superintendent and Park Group FMO will be prepared. This Inter-park Agreement will be accompanied by an annual Delegation of Authority. Both the DOA and Inter-Park Agreement will remain valid until rescinded by either party, updates are needed, or	X	X	X

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PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
personnel changes necessitate a revision and update. As appropriate, the DOA will specify multi-agency coordination (MAC) group authorities.			
5. Ensure applicable park resource management objectives are included in Fire Management Plan (FMP). Ensure FMP receives an interdisciplinary annual review and is validated and appropriately updated on an annual basis in advance of the fire season. Fire Management Plans do not automatically expire. They are considered valid until superseded by a new or revised approved plan. A comprehensive review of the FMP should be completed every 7 years (RM 18, Chapter 4). Copies of the parks signed annual FMP Review and Update template (RM-18, Chapter 4, Exhibit 2) or packet, will be sent to the Regional FMO and to the FMPC in Boise. (Note the change to a seven year review instead of five year review.)			X
6. Reviews and approves wildfire preparedness and fuels management funding based on an accurate and defensible readiness analysis. Ensure use of fire funds is in compliance with Department and Agency policies.	X	X	X
7. Develop fire management standards and constraints that are in compliance with agency fire policies.		X	X
8. Ensure compliance with the collection, storing, and aggregation of Wildland Fire Program Core geospatial data (http://share.nps.gov/firegis).			X
9. Management teams will meet once a year to review fire and aviation policies, roles, responsibilities, and delegations of authority. Specifically address oversight and management controls, critical safety issues and high-risk situations such as team transfers of command, periods of multiple fire activity and Red Flag Warnings.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
10. Review safety policies, procedures, and concerns with field fire and fire aviation personnel. Discussions should include issues that could compromise safety and effectiveness during the upcoming season.			X
11. Ensure timely follow-up actions to program reviews, fire preparedness reviews, fire and fire aviation safety reviews, fire critiques and post-season reviews.	X	X	X
12. Ensure fire and fire aviation preparedness reviews are conducted in all units each year. Parks must complete checklists applicable to their specific program scope and complexity and include appropriate program elements, such as prescribed fire. A summary of the preparedness review findings including standards exceeded or needing improvement will be submitted to the Regional FMO before the fire season.		X	X
13. Ensure an approved burn plan is followed for each prescribed fire project; technical review, Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist (PMS486), and Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization (PMS 485) are completed; follow-up monitoring and documentation to ensure management objectives are met.		X	X
14. Meet annually with major cooperators and review interagency agreements to ensure their continued effectiveness and efficiency (may be delegated).		X	X
15. Ensure post fire reviews are conducted on all fires that escape initial attack or are managed as long term incidents. Participate in all reviews that require management by any type of Incident Management Team (Regional Director may delegate).		X	X
16. Provide management oversight by personally visiting wildland and prescribed fires each year.			X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
17. Provide incident management objectives, written delegations of authority and Agency Administrator briefings to Incident Management Teams. See Chapter 11, Agency Administrator Responsibilities.			X
18. Monitor wildfire potential and provide oversight during periods of critical fire activity/situations.	X	X	X
19. Ensures that resource advisors are identified, trained, available, and appropriately assigned to wildland fire incidents. Refer to <i>Resource Advisors Guide for Wildland Fire</i> PMS 313, NFES 1831, Jan 2004.			X
20. Convene and participate in annual pre- and post-season fire meetings.	X	X	X
21. Attends the Fire Management Leadership Course (geographic or national) within two years of appointment to Superintendent. Ensures that personnel assigned oversight responsibilities for the fire program have completed the Fire Management Leadership course.		X	X
22. Ensure appropriate investigations are conducted for accidents (as defined in Chapter 18), entrapments, shelter deployments, and related events.	X	X	X
23. For all unplanned human-caused fires where liability can be determined, ensure actions are initiated to recover cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resource and improvements.		X	X
24. Ensure the development of Published Decisions within WFDSS with local unit staff specialists for all fires that exceed initial attack or are being managed for multiple objectives, within the objectives and requirements contained in the Park's Fire Management Plan.	X	X	X
25. Ensure there is adequate direction in fire management plans to identify fire danger awareness with escalating fire potential.			X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
26. Ensure compliance with Departmental and agency policy, as well as Regional Office direction for prescribed fire activities and ensure that periodic reviews and inspections of the prescribed fire program are completed.	X	X	X
27. Review prescribed fire plans and recommend or approve the plans depending upon the delegated authority. Ensure that the prescribed fire plan has been reviewed and recommended by a qualified technical reviewer who was not involved in the plan preparation.			X
28. At National Preparedness Level 4 and 5, approve the initiation or continuation of prescribed fire applications based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources and activities and include feedback from the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group.		X	

1

2 **Fire Management Staff Roles**

3

4 **National Office**

5 The Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation (FAM Chief), NPS-NIFC, is
6 responsible and accountable for developing policy, program direction and
7 international coordination. The FAM Chief, along with the Branch Chiefs for
8 Wildland Fire and Aviation, work with interagency cooperators to coordinate,
9 reduce duplication, increase efficiencies in wildland fire management and
10 aviation, and provide feedback to regional offices on performance requirements.

11

12 **Regional Office**

13 The Regional Fire Management Officer (RFMO) provides leadership for their
14 fire and fire aviation management program. The RFMO is responsible and
15 accountable for providing planning, coordination, training, technical guidance
16 and oversight to the park fire management programs. The RFMO also
17 represents the Regional Director on interagency geographic coordination groups
18 and Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Groups. The RFMO provides feedback
19 to units on performance requirements.

20

21 **Park**

22 The Fire Management Officer (FMO) is responsible and accountable for
23 providing leadership for fire and fire aviation management programs at the local

1 level. The FMO determines program requirements to implement land use
 2 decisions through the Fire Management Plan (FMP) to meet land management
 3 objectives. The FMO negotiates interagency agreements
 4 (contracting/agreements officer must review and process agreement) and
 5 represents the Agency Administrator on local interagency fire and fire aviation
 6 groups.

7
 8 The Superintendent annually shall provide and update the expectations of
 9 wildland fire program leaders by means of two instruments. One is a limited
 10 Delegation of Authority (DOA) that encompasses the scope of duties outlined
 11 above. The other is an Inter-park Agreement for those cases where a Park
 12 Group FMO (or designee) handles defined duties on behalf of another NPS unit
 13 within the defined Park Group.

14
 15 **Fire Management Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations**

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
1. Maintain safety first as the foundation for all aspects of fire and fire aviation management.	X	X	X
2. Ensure completion of a job hazard analysis (JHA) for fire and fire aviation activities so mitigation measures are taken to reduce risk.			X
3. Ensure work/rest and length of assignment guidelines are followed during all fire and fire aviation activities. Deviations must be approved and documented.	X	X	X
4. Ensure that only trained and qualified personnel are assigned to fire and fire aviation duties.	X	X	X
5. Develop, implement, evaluate and document fire and fire aviation training programs to meet current and anticipated needs.	X	X	X
6. Establish an effective process to gather, evaluate, and communicate information to managers, supervisors, and employees. Ensure clear and concise communications are maintained at all levels.	X	X	X
7. Develop and maintain an open line of communication with the public and cooperators.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
8. Ensure that the fire and fire aviation management staff understand their role, responsibilities, authority, and accountability.	X	X	X
9. Organize, train, equip, and direct a qualified work force. Establish "red card" certification/qualification process at the local level. Individual Development Plans (IDP) should be developed for all employees, but special emphasis must be on employees that do not meet standards.	X	X	X
10. Ensure fire and fire aviation policies are understood, followed, and coordinated with other agencies as appropriate.	X	X	X
11. Recognize when complexity levels exceed program capabilities. Increase administrative, managerial, and operational resources to meet the need.	X	X	X
12. Initiate, conduct, and participate in fire management related reviews and investigations, including prescribed fires declared wildfires.	X	X	X
13. Provide for and personally participate in periodic site visits to individual incidents and projects.	X	X	X
14. Utilize the incident complexity analysis to ensure the proper level of management is assigned to all incidents.		X	X
15. Review and evaluate performance of the fire management organization and take appropriate actions.	X	X	X
16. Ensure incoming personnel and crews are briefed prior to fire and fire aviation assignments.		X	X
17. Ensure the development of Published Decisions within WFDSS with local unit staff specialists for all fires that exceed initial attack or are being managed for multiple objectives, within the objectives and requirements contained in the Park's Fire Management Plan.		X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
18. Monitor fire season severity predictions, fire behavior, and fire activity levels. Take actions to ensure safe, efficient, and effective operations.	X	X	X
19. Provide fire personnel with adequate guidance and decision-making authority to ensure timely decisions.		X	X
20. Ensure a written/approved plan based on current land use and/or fire management plans and/or project-level NEPA document exists for each prescribed fire or non-fire treatment. Plans shall be integrated with related vegetation management actions such as invasive species management.			X
21. Ensure effective transfer of command of incident management occurs and oversight is in place.	X	X	X
22. Develop and maintain agreements, annual operating plans, and contracts on an interagency basis to increase effectiveness and efficiencies.	X	X	X
23. Provide the expertise and skills to fully integrate fire and fire aviation management into interdisciplinary planning efforts.	X	X	X
24. Work with cooperators to identify processes and procedures for providing fire safe communities.	X	X	X
25. Develop, maintain, and annually evaluate the FMP to ensure accuracy and validity by completing a review. Ensure applicable park resource management objectives are included in the Fire Management Plan (FMP).		X	X
26. Ensure budget requests and allocations reflect analyzed anticipated workload.	X	X	X
27. Develop and maintain current operational plans, e.g., dispatch, pre-attack, prevention.	X	X	X
28. Ensure that reports and records are properly completed and maintained.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
29. Ensure Wildland Fire Program Core spatial data is collected, stored, and aggregated based on NPS standards (http://share.nps.gov/firegis).		X	X
30. Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability in planning and expenditures.	X	X	X
31. Assess, identify, and implement program actions that effectively reduce unwanted wildland fire ignitions and mitigate risks to life, property, and resources. Utilize safe, effective, and efficient management.		X	X
32. Effectively communicate the role of wildland fire to internal and external agency audiences.	X	X	X
33. Complete trespass actions when unplanned human-caused ignitions occur.		X	X
34. Ensure compliance with National and Regional policy and direction for prescribed fire activities and ensure that periodic reviews and inspections of the prescribed fire program are completed.	X	X	X
35. Ensure all fire management actions and activities are consistent with those contained in the current Fire Management Plan and associated environmental compliance documentation.			X

1

2 **Requirements for Fire Management Positions**

3

4 All NPS employees assigned dedicated fire management program
5 responsibilities at the park, regional or national level shall meet established
6 interagency and NPS competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) and
7 associated qualifications.

8

9 All NPS employees assigned to wildland fire management incidents will meet
10 the training and qualification standards set by the National Wildfire
11 Coordinating Group.

12

13 Refer to Chapter 13 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation*
14 *Operations* for specific requirements.

15

- 1 All wildland fires will be managed by an individual qualified and certified at the
- 2 command level appropriate to the complexity level of the incident.
- 3
- 4 The qualification standards identified in the *Interagency Fire Program*
- 5 *Management Qualifications Standards* will be required, in conjunction with
- 6 specific agency requirements, when filling vacant fire program positions and as
- 7 an aid in developing Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for employees.

9 **Training**

11 **Training for Park Superintendents**

- 12 The following training is required for park superintendents.
- 13 • Fire Management Leadership (geographic or national)
- 14 The training should be completed within two years of appointment to a
- 15 designated management position to ensure that personnel who have oversight
- 16 responsibilities for the fire program have completed the Fire Management
- 17 Leadership course.

19 **Training for Fire Management Officers**

- 20 The following training is required for fire management officers.
- 21 • Fire Program Management (M-581).

23 **NPS Firefighters General Training Requirements**

Employment Category	Required Training	Initial Requirement/ Frequency	Completion Tracking Method	Reference
Agency Permanent, Career Seasonal and Temporary Firefighters	First Aid/ Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon initial employment. • Every 3 years or per certifying authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor-led • Unit Safety Manager 	RM-50B, Section 4
	HAZMAT - First Responder Awareness Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon initial employment • Annually • Minimum of one hour online course initially and annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor-led • Unit Safety Manager • DOI Learn 	https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha2254.pdf Pg. 27
	Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 hrs. minimum • Annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IQCS 	RM-18 Ch. 10
	Blood borne Pathogens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual for employees at increased risk due to assigned duties (i.e. IHC, helitack, WFM, engine crews) • Locally taught or DOI Learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor • DOI Learn 	RM-51 Ch. 5

24
25
26

1 Structural Fire and Hazardous Materials Response

2

**3 Structural Fire Response Requirements (Including Vehicle, Trash, and
4 Dumpster Fires)**

5 In order to protect the health and safety of National Park Service personnel, no
6 employee shall be directed, or dispatched (including self-dispatching) to the
7 suppression of structural fires, including vehicle fires, unless they are provided
8 with the required personnel protective equipment, firefighting equipment and
9 training. All employees must meet or exceed the standards and regulations
10 identified in Director's Order and Reference Manual #58, Structural Fire.

11

12 Vehicle, trash, and dumpster fires contain a high level of toxic emissions and
13 must be treated with the same caution that structural fires are treated.

14 Firefighters must be outfitted with NFPA compliant structural fire personal
15 protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus. Situations
16 exist during the incipient phase of a vehicle fire where the fire can be quickly
17 suppressed with the discharge of a handheld fire extinguisher. Discharging a
18 handheld fire extinguisher during this phase of the fire will normally be
19 considered an appropriate action for any employee who has received annual fire
20 extinguisher training. If the fire has gone beyond the incipient stage, employees
21 are to protect the scene and request the appropriate suppression resources.

22

23 Delegation of Authority

24

25 Delegation for Regional Fire Management Officers

26 In order to effectively perform their duties, the RFMO must have certain
27 authorities delegated from the Regional Director. The Delegation of Authority
28 should include the following roles and responsibilities:

- 29 • Serves as the Regional Director's authorized representative on Geographic
30 Area Coordination Groups, including MAC groups.
- 31 • Coordinate and establish priorities on uncommitted fire suppression
32 resources during periods of shortages.
- 33 • Coordinate wildland fire planning, response, and evaluation region-wide.
- 34 • Relocate agency pre-suppression/suppression resources within the region
35 based on fire potential/activity.
- 36 • Correct unsafe fire suppression activities.
- 37 • Direct accelerated, aggressive initial attack when appropriate.
- 38 • Develop and maintain agreements to provide for the management, fiscal and
39 operational functions of combined agency operated facilities.
- 40 • Suspend prescribed fire activities when warranted.
- 41 • Give authorization to hire Emergency Firefighters in accordance with the
42 DOI Pay Plan for Emergency Workers.
- 43 • Approve emergency fire severity funding expenditures not to exceed the
44 Regional annual authority.

45

1 NPS Duty Officer (DO)

2

3 All Fire Management Officers are responsible to provide DO coverage during
4 any period of predicted incident activities. DO's responsibilities may be
5 performed by any individual with a signed Delegation of Authority from the
6 local Agency Administrator. The Duty Officer may be in a location remote
7 from the park, but will be familiar with local incident response procedures,
8 agreements and resources. The required duties for all DOs are:

- 9 • Monitor unit incident activities for compliance with NPS safety policies.
- 10 • Coordinate and set priorities for unit suppression actions and resource
11 allocation.
- 12 • Keep Agency Administrators, suppression resources and Information
13 Officers informed of the current and expected situation.
- 14 • Plan for and implement actions required for future needs.
- 15 • Document all decisions and actions.

16

17 DOs will provide operational oversight of these requirements as well as any
18 specific duties assigned by fire managers through the fire operating plan. DOs
19 will not fill any ICS incident command functions connected to any incident. In
20 the event that the DO is required to accept an incident assignment, the FMO will
21 ensure that another authorized DO is in place prior to the departure of the
22 outgoing DO.

23

24 Engine Operating Standards

25

26 Current direction on the NPS Fire and Aviation vehicle program is at the NPS
27 Fire Operations Sharepoint site:
28 <http://npsfamshare/wildlandfire/operations/fleetandfacilities/default.aspx>

29

30 Vehicle Color and Marking

31 Vehicles dedicated to wildland fire activities shall be white in color and have a
32 single four-inch wide red reflective stripe placed according to NFPA 1906
33 (NFPA 1906 8.8.3, 2006 edition). The word "FIRE" red with white background
34 color will be clearly visible on all four sides of the vehicle. The NPS
35 Arrowhead will be placed on the front doors. The size and placement of the
36 Arrowhead will be as specified in RM-9. An identifier will be placed on the
37 vehicle according to local zone or GACC directions. Roof numbers will be
38 placed according to local zone procedures.

39

40 Engine Module Standards

41 If no ENGB is assigned, then the apparatus is designated as a Patrol or
42 Prevention vehicle, not as an Engine.

43

44

Type	Minimum Personnel	ENGB	FFT2 (Minimum Qualification)
3	3	1	2
4	3	1	2
5	2	1	1
6	2	1	1
7	2*	**	1

- 1 • Engines with four or more personnel assigned will always have a qualified
 2 engine operator (ENOP) in addition to an ENGB
 3 • Additional personnel may be requested by the ordering unit and/or added by
 4 the filling unit for mobilization
 5 * At least one of which if FFT1 and ICT5 qualified
 6 ** An ENGB is required for mobilization
 7

8 **Lights and Siren Response**

9
 10 Responding to wildland fire incidents normally does not warrant the use of
 11 emergency lights and siren on public roads by calling for or blocking the right-
 12 of-way from other traffic in order to safely and effectively perform the NPS
 13 mission. However, there may be rare and extenuating circumstances when
 14 limited use of emergency lights and siren is appropriate and necessary due to an
 15 immediate threat to life.
 16

17 Those units that determine an emergency lights-and-siren response on public
 18 roads is necessary to meet mission requirements must develop an operating plan
 19 that ensures the following:

- 20 1. All vehicles (command, engines, etc.) will be properly marked, equipped,
 21 and operated in accordance with state statutes, codes, permits and NPS
 22 requirements.
 23 2. Drivers will complete training in the proper use of lights and siren response
 24 in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
 25 1451 Standard for a Fire Service Operations Training Program and 1002
 26 Standard for Fire Apparatus Operator/Driver Professional Qualifications, as
 27 well as any state requirements.
 28 3. Instructors of lights and siren training must have successfully completed
 29 lights and siren training as part of a federal engine academy, and
 30 Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) and a facilitative instructor
 31 course.
 32 4. Drivers responding with emergency lights and sirens will be minimally
 33 qualified as engine operator.
 34 5. Lights and sirens will meet NFPA and state code requirements.
 35 6. Posted speed limits will be followed at all times, regardless of response
 36 type.

- 1 7. Drivers will stop at all controlled intersections (sign, light, traffic officer)
2 before proceeding; drivers will stop or reduce speed as circumstances
3 dictate prior to proceeding through any uncontrolled intersections.
4 8. Traffic light changing mechanisms (e.g., Opticons) will only be used under
5 formal written agreement with state and local governments. They will be
6 used only when they are necessary to create safe right-of-way through urban
7 high-traffic areas. All pertinent state and local statutes and procedures will
8 be adhered to.

10 **Vehicle Maintenance, Repairs and Replacement**

11
12 Daily preventative maintenance checks, regular servicing, and prompt repairs,
13 and lifecycle replacement are critical to providing mission readiness,
14 performance, and safe operation.

16 **Annual Safety Inspections, Scheduled Maintenance, and Daily Inspections**

17 It is required to complete and document annual safety inspections, regularly
18 scheduled preventative maintenance and daily (or pre-trip) inspections for all
19 NPS wildland fire vehicles. Annual safety inspections must be documented on
20 Form 1520-35. Regularly scheduled preventative maintenance, unscheduled
21 maintenance and repairs for interior owned (I-plate) vehicles is recorded in
22 FBMS. Daily inspections must be recorded in the FEMPR (Fire Engine
23 Maintenance Procedure and Record).

24
25 The cost of all vehicle repairs and maintenance is the responsibility of the
26 individual parks unless the damage is directly attributable to operations on a
27 wildfire. In that case, with approval from the IC, the damages may be paid for
28 under the fire's suppression account.

29
30 Wildland fire vehicles that are not operationally sound or have safety
31 deficiencies must not be put into service. In addition, vehicles that suffer from
32 mechanical or safety issues while enroute or on assignment must be taken out of
33 service at the earliest opportunity in which it is safe to do so and must not be put
34 back into service until corrective action can be completed.

36 **Fixed Ownership Rates (FORs)**

37 FORs are fees that are paid into the WCF annually for each vehicle in the
38 program. These fees continue to accumulate over the life of a vehicle and are
39 used to replace the vehicle at the end of its life cycle. The FOR is adjusted
40 annually by the WCF manager to reflect changes in input parameters.

42 **Equipment Bulletins and Equipment Alerts**

43
44 The NPS mirrors the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) two-level Equipment
45 Bulletin (EB) and Equipment Alert (EA) System. The purpose of the system is
46 to share accurate and timely information regarding potential equipment

1 problems and/or needed repairs. The EB is primarily intended to inform the
 2 equipment users of recommendations for repairs, potential hazards, or general
 3 information related to the overall maintenance, awareness, and safe operation of
 4 fire equipment. The EA is time sensitive and addresses potentially serious
 5 hazards or risks. The alert includes a specific action that the user must act upon.

6
 7 Unexpected issues involving wildland fire vehicles which do not fall under other
 8 types of wildland fire reviews and investigations and/or other applicable federal,
 9 state or specific agency requirements must be reported. If an unexpected vehicle
 10 issue warrants an EB or EA it is issued by the National Fire Equipment Program
 11 Manager through the Operations Advisory Team and the Capital Equipment
 12 Committee. Members of these groups must ensure the information reaches all
 13 levels of the organization.

14 **NPS Firefighter Target Physical Fitness Standards**

15
 16
 17 These are voluntary targets. They are not mandatory. These targets are
 18 established to provide NPS firefighters a common standard against which to
 19 gauge their physical fitness level. NPS firefighters are encouraged to meet or
 20 exceed these standards.

	Age 18-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50 & Up
1.5 Mile Run	11:58	12:25	13:05	14:43
Sit-Ups (1 minute)	40	36	31	26
Push-Ups (1 minute)	33	27	21	15

21
 22 The guide below may be used to adjust the 1.5 mile run times to compensate for
 23 altitude differences:

Altitude in feet	1.5 mile run time adjustment
0 - 5,000	No adjustment
5,000 - 6,000	Add 30 seconds
6,000 - 7,000	Add 40 seconds
7,000 - 8,000	Add 50 seconds

24
 25 **National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge**
 26 The national fire operations fitness challenge encourages and recognizes
 27 achievement in physical fitness by NPS firefighters. The fitness challenge
 28 provides a common system by which NPS firefighters can measure current
 29 fitness, establish fitness goals, and track fitness improvement. The fitness
 30 challenge is voluntary, but NPS firefighters are encouraged to participate. The
 31 fitness challenge tests participants in four basic exercises - push-ups, pull-ups,
 32 sit-ups and a timed run of 1.5 miles. Test results are compiled into a final
 33 overall score. Unit and Regional offices are encouraged to support and

1 recognize achievement in firefighter fitness. Specific information on the fitness
2 challenge is located at
3 www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/fireops/fitness_challenge.html.

5 **Wildland Fire Uniform Standards**

6
7 The Service-wide Uniform Program Guideline (DO-43) sets forth the service-
8 wide policies and associated legal mandates for wearing the NPS uniform and
9 for authorizing allowances to employees.

10
11 The guideline states that superintendents administer the uniform program within
12 their areas and are responsible for developing and communicating local uniform
13 and appearance standards in accordance with DO-43, determining who will wear
14 the uniform and what uniform will be worn and enforcing uniform and
15 appearance standards. Three options exist for uniforms for wildland fire
16 personnel:

- 17 • Within the context of the uniform standards, if the conventional NPS
18 uniform is identified at the local level as required for specified fire
19 management staff, fire program management funds may be used to support
20 uniform purchases in accordance with allowance limits identified in DO-43.
- 21 • While Nomex outerwear (i.e. shirts, trousers, brush-coats) routinely issued
22 as personal protective equipment has become recognized as the uniform of
23 the wildland firefighter as a matter of necessity, these apparel also have
24 justifiable utility as a uniform standard at the park level for certain fire
25 and/or ONPS base-funded wildland fire staff.
- 26 • When the conventional NPS uniform or the full Nomex outerwear is not
27 appropriate or justified, local management with park superintendent
28 approval may establish a predetermined dress code for fire staff. The goals
29 of the NPS uniform program can appropriately be applied (with common
30 sense) to this departure from the norm.
- 31 • The DOI Boot Policy is referenced in Chapter 7.
- 32 • The fire management officer is responsible for establishing a reasonable
33 allotment schedule for new or returning employees, commensurate with
34 supplies provided in previous seasons. A suggested per person issuance is
35 three to four tee shirts, one ball cap, and one sweatshirt (where appropriate).
36 \$100 would normally be adequate to cover costs of this issuance.

37
38 Where appropriate and justified, fire funds may be applied to the purchase of
39 100 percent cotton tee shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps, with appropriate logo
40 and color scheme, to augment the Nomex outerwear worn in conjunction with
41 project or wildland fire management incidents. Nomex outerwear will usually
42 be returned to the park's fire cache based on the tour of duty (end of season,
43 transfer to another park, etc.).

44
45 Just as with uniform allowance discussed in DO-43, the intent of fire-funded
46 purchases is to defray the cost of the appropriate apparel, not necessarily to

1 cover the cost of all items. This will not only be factored into the quantities
2 deemed necessary for the individual, but would also preclude fire-funded
3 purchases of fleece jackets, rain gear and other personal items generally
4 considered the responsibility of those employees not covered by the NPS
5 uniform program. Exceptions to this should be well-justified and documented.

6

7 **Fire Management Credentials**

8 Official fire identification credentials are approved for issuance to National Park
9 Service (NPS) employees with fire as a primary or secondary responsibility as
10 identified in their individual position descriptions and approved by DOI Office
11 of Services for OWCP, Accountability and Retirement (SOAR). These
12 credentials provide fire personnel with similar professional identification as
13 being used by many fire cooperators. The fire credentials consist of a badge,
14 identification card, and case that are issued as government property. The badge
15 complies with national fire standards, has red trim, and is labeled as Fire Chief,
16 Fire Manager or Firefighter. The fire credentials are to be carried in a wallet
17 type case and utilized for identification purposes only and will not be worn with
18 the official NPS uniform or otherwise conflict with DO-43. Lost or stolen
19 credentials, as government property, should be entered into NCIC for
20 confiscation and returned when found.

21

22 **NPS Use of WFDSS**

23

- 24 1. The internet-based WFDSS will be the primary decision support
25 documentation platform for all NPS wildfires.
- 26 2. Minimum required documentation/data field entry for each fire will follow
27 system standards as described in Appendix N of the *Interagency Standards*
28 *for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*
- 29 3. Publishing decisions for initial attack fires in WFDSS is optional. All fires
30 which go into extended attack or are being managed for multiple objectives
31 will have a published decision in WFDSS.
- 32 4. NPS Superintendents or other designated approving officials must meet fire
33 training requirements as specified in in this chapter.
- 34 5. NPS Superintendents or other designated approving officials will maintain
35 WFDSS user profiles (as appropriate), allowing them to approve wildfire
36 decisions in WFDSS.
- 37 6. Wildfire decisions, documented in WFDSS and approved by NPS Agency
38 Administrators, constitute awareness of estimated fire costs for the duration
39 of the fire. This cost, shown in the WFDSS Course of Action, will be
40 developed from sources such as I-Suite, ICS-209 summaries, finance units
41 within incident management teams, estimation spreadsheets, or other
42 sources.
- 43 7. All incidents in WFDSS will accurately document the containment date,
44 control, and out date by the end of the calendar year.

- 1 8. To ensure awareness of suppression expenditures at all levels, Park
2 Superintendents will provide written notification to Regional Director or the
3 Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation as cost thresholds (Chapter 11) are
4 approached or reached.
- 5 9. As approvers of WFDSS decisions, NPS Superintendents or other
6 designated approving officials will ensure that periodic assessments are
7 completed until the fire is declared out.
- 8 10. Those fires burning on to NPS lands from another federal fire management
9 agency (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian
10 Affairs, or US Fish & Wildlife Service) should be entered by the originating
11 agency, not the NPS.
- 12 11. Wildfires burning on to NPS lands from state and local lands will be entered
13 into WFDSS by the receiving NPS unit, if they have not been entered by
14 another federal agency or State, with the true Point of Origin and Discovery
15 Date being entered. When these incidents are created in WFDSS, the
16 Responsible Unit Name at Point of Origin will not be the NPS. However,
17 the NPS will be selected as at least one of the Responsible Agency(s) in
18 addition to Other.
- 19 12. Wildfires must be entered individually, not as complexes, into the WFDSS.
20 This is independent of the operational or financial management of a group
21 of fires as a complex, and regardless of them having a common course of
22 action.
- 23 13. Applicable fire-related resource management objectives and management
24 requirements from the NPS Management Policies, as well as from a park's
25 General Management Plan, Resource Management/Stewardship Plan, and
26 Fire Management Plan (FMP), will be input into the WFDSS. This
27 information will reflect the management objectives for wildland fire as
28 stated in the park's FMP and supporting NEPA documents.
- 29 14. Every wildland fire decision will consider the development of protection
30 objectives which also provide for safety of firefighters and the public and
31 minimize the loss of, and damage to, property, cultural and natural
32 resources.
- 33 15. WFDSS does not replace ICS-209 and Situation Reporting Systems. Parks
34 will continue to follow National, Geographic Area Coordination Center
35 (GACC), and/or local guidance for fire reporting within these systems.
- 36 16. Refer to Chapter 11 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation*
37 *Operations* for further guidance.

39 **National Park Service Specific Qualifications and Qualifications Exceptions**

- 40
- 41 Prescribed Fire Crewmember (RXCM): The National Park Service does not
42 recognize the RXCM position. NPS personnel functioning on prescribed fires
43 must meet qualification standards found in the NWCG PMS 310-1, *Wildland*
44 *Fire Qualifications Guide*.

45