

2019 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Executive Summary of Changes

Chapter 1 – Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Doctrine Overview

- Changed chapter title from “Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Overview” to “Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Doctrine Overview.”
- Clarified text under subheading “Guiding Principles of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy,” 7., regarding FMPs and activities incorporate firefighter exposure, public health, compliance with Clean Air Act and environment quality considerations.
- Under heading “Definitions”:
 - Clarified “Wildland Fire” as a general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland.
 - Clarified “Suppression” as all the work of extinguishing a fire or confining fire spread.
 - Clarified “Protection” as the actions taken to mitigate the adverse effects of fire on environmental, social, political, and economical effects of fire.
 - Clarified “Prescribed Fire” as a wildland fire originating from a planned ignition to meet specific objectives identified in a written, approved, prescribed fire plan for which NEPA requirements (where applicable) have been met prior to ignition.
 - Inserted “National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS),” “Criteria Pollutants,” “State Implementation Plan (SIP),” “Federal Implementation Plan (FIP),” “Attainment Area,” “Nonattainment Area,” “Maintenance Area,” and associated text.

Chapter 2 – BLM

- Clarified under heading “Fire and Aviation Directorate” that the BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate (FAD) consists of the Assistant Director (FA), one Deputy Assistant Director (FA) located at NIFC, and one Deputy Assistant Director (FA) located in Washington D.C.
- Under heading “Program Manager Responsibilities”:
 - Removed text under heading “Program Manager Responsibilities,” subheading “Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation (FA-100) Deputy Assistant Directors, Fire and Aviation (FA-100)” regarding Supervises the Senior Program Advisor position located at the Washington Headquarters Office...
 - Under subheading “Fire Operations Division Chief (FA-300)”:
 - Inserted text regarding assists the Assistant Director (FA) and Deputy Assistant Directors (FA), in the formulation and establishment of national policies and programs pertinent to...fire facilities...
 - Clarified text regarding supervisory responsibilities.
 - Inserted text that NMAC responsibilities may be delegated to a Branch Chief.
 - Clarified text regarding provides daily National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group briefings to the Assistant Director and Deputy Assistant Directors, Fire and Aviation; BLM state fire management officers at National Preparedness Level (PL) 3 and above as warranted.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division Chief (FA-600),” bullet “Smoke Management” regarding the Division Chief is responsible for the development and coordination of the BLM’s smoke management program requirements and compliance with State air quality rules and State Implementation Plans.
- Under heading “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations,” table heading “Assigned Program Responsibility” for State Director, District Manager and Agency Administrator:
 - Inserted text in block 7 regarding the District Manager is responsible for providing written notification to the:
 - State Director when federal combined expenditures for an incident meet or exceed \$5 million AND more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by the BLM (in Alaska, more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by DOI and ANCSA).
 - National Director, through the State Director, when federal combined expenditures for an incident meet or exceed \$10 million AND more than 50% of the burned acres

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- are managed by the BLM (in Alaska, more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by DOI and ANCSA).
 - Notifications should be emailed with a cc to the BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate Assistant Director.
 - Inserted text in block 11 regarding the State Director, District Manager and Agency Administrator are responsible for ensuring completion of Air Quality Exceedance Review.
 - Inserted text in block 12 regarding the State Director, District Manager and Agency Administrator are responsible for ensuring prescribed fire activities are in compliance with state smoke management program and Clean Air Act. Participate in Air Quality Exceedance Notice of Violation review.
 - Inserted text in block 14 regarding the State Director and District Manager are responsible for ensuring prescribed fire activities are in compliance with Interagency, National and State Office policy. Participate in periodic reviews of the prescribed fire program.
 - Inserted text in block 17 regarding the State Director and District Manager are responsible for establishing and maintaining a Serious Incident or Fatality (SIOF) Plan.
 - Removed text in block 22 regarding the *Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization* is located in PMS 485 and inserted PMS 484-1, Element 2A.
- Under heading “Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations,” table heading “Assigned Program Responsibility,” for State FMO and District FMO, inserted text in block 35 that the State FMO and District FMO will ensure compliance with Interagency, National and State Office policy for prescribed fire activities. Provide periodic reviews of the prescribed fire program.
- Inserted text under heading “State and National Duty Officers” that state duty officers are responsible for ensuring emergency notifications are made to the National Duty Officer and emergency notifications are made according to FA protocols.
- Clarified text under heading “Emergency Notification and Contact Information,” subheading “From the Great Basin Smokejumper Duty Officer” regarding when a Great Basin Smokejumper accident/injury is reported, the smokejumper base manager will notify the Chief, Branch of Preparedness and Suppression Operations (FA-320) who will inform necessary parties up the chain of command and notify the NIFC External Affairs Office.
- Clarified text under subheading “BLM National Fire Equipment Program (NFEP)” regarding NFEP is the sole entity responsible for design, ordering, procurement, and delivery of Working Capital Fund (WCF) 600 series fire equipment...
- Under subheading “Acquisition of Working Capital Fund Equipment”:
 - Inserted text regarding all WCF 600 series equipment must be ordered through the NFEP using the Fire Equipment Ordering System (FEOS).
 - Inserted text regarding acquisition of new WCF 600 series fire equipment that exceeds the Bureau’s fleet cap is authorized under the following terms:
 - Vehicles support fire management actions identified in approved Land/Resource Management Plans and their associated Fire Management Plans. Vehicles will be purchased with funds approved by the Fire and Aviation Directorate.
 - Vehicles will be transferred to the benefitting State/Field Office when received. New vehicle purchases will require completion of a BLM Fire and Aviation New Fire Fleet Request in addition to Form 1520-58. The form is located on the NOC Fleet Management website and the NFEP website.
- Clarified text under subheading “Fire Equipment Maintenance Procedure and Record (FEMPR)” regarding the FEMPR will be used to document daily inspections and all maintenance for all WCF Class 600 fire equipment and any other vehicle used primarily for fire suppression operations.
- Removed text under heading “BLM Firefighters General Non-Fire Training Requirements” regarding DOI Learn and inserted DOI Talent.
- Removed existing text under subheading “BLM National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge” and inserted the BLM fire operations fitness challenge encourages and recognizes achievement in physical fitness by BLM firefighters. The fitness challenge provides a common system by

which BLM firefighters can measure current fitness, establish fitness goals, and track fitness improvement. Efforts are underway to update the fitness challenge. For current specific information about the fitness challenge, refer to the fitness challenge information on the BLM Fire Operations website.

- Removed text under subheading “Interagency Fire Program Management Standards” regarding 12 key fire management positions and inserted 11 key fire management positions.
- Under heading “BLM Hand Crews”:
 - Inserted text in table “BLM Hand Crew Standards by Type,” row “Crew Size,” column “Type 1 IHC” regarding see table in Chapter 13 for “Minimum Crew Standards for National Mobilization.”
 - In table “BLM IHC Locations,” under Oregon, inserted “Lakeview Veteran” crew located in “Klamath Falls.”
- Removed text in table “BLM Exclusive Use Helicopter Locations” regarding the AZ and Lewistown, MT Type 3 helicopter being shared.
- Removed text in table under subheading “Target (Desired) Exclusive Use Helitack Crew Qualifications and Composition” regarding HEB1 and HEB2 and inserted HEBM.
- Clarified text under heading “Sagebrush Rangeland and Sage-Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire” regarding the Fire and Aviation may continue to review wildfires occurring in sagebrush rangelands and sage-grouse habitat as part of the Significant Wildland Fire Review process. A Significant Wildland Fire Review may be conducted, in part, when there are significant political, social, natural resource, complexity, size, or policy concerns; significant and complicated cost-share or multi-jurisdictional issues; or the affected line officer requests a review.

Chapter 3 – NPS

- In the table under heading “Agency Administrator Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations”:
 - Removed text in block 13 regarding the *Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization* is located in PMS 485 and inserted PMS 484-1, Element 2A.
 - Inserted text in block 14 regarding the NPS Director, Regional Director and Park Superintendent are required to ensure Air Quality Exceedance Reviews are completed in cooperation with NPS Air Resource Division.
- Removed text in table under subheading “NPS Firefighters General Training Requirements” regarding DOI Learn and inserted DOI Talent.

Chapter 4 – FWS

- Under table “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” for FWS Director, Regional Director, Regional Chief/Refuge Supervisor, and Project Leader/Refuge Manager:
 - Removed requirement in block 1 for FWS Director and Regional Director to ensure any standards developed are compliant with agency wildland fire policies.
 - Removed requirement in block 2 for FWS Director and Regional Director to ensure use of fire funds is in compliance with department and agency policies.
 - Removed requirement in block 3 for FWS Director and Regional Director to attend M-581 or Agency Administrator Training Workshop hosted by the Prescribed Fire Training Center.
 - Removed requirement in block 6 for FWS Director to ensure all fire management activities are supported by a current Fire Management Plan (FMP) with documented annual updates and are integrated with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
 - Removed requirement in block 19 for FWS Director to ensure only trained and certified fire and non-fire personnel are available to support fire operations at the local, geographic, and national levels.
- Clarified text under heading “Fire Reporting” regarding field units will report wildland fire occurrence and fire status to their local dispatch office and Regional Fire Management Coordinator or designee.
- Under heading “Physical Fitness and Conditioning,” inserted new subheading “National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge” and associated text.

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- Revised table under subheading “FWS Firefighter General Training Requirements,” table “Agency Permanent, Career Seasonal, and Temporary Firefighters” regarding “Required Training,” “Initial/Requirement/Frequency,” “Completion/Tracking Method,” and “Reference.”

Chapter 5 – FS

- Under heading “Foundational Doctrine”:
 - Inserted text in the third bullet regarding leadership principles are the foundational doctrine on which fire and aviation management operations will be based (*Leading in the Wildland Fire Service*, NWCG PMS 494-2).
 - Inserted text under subheading “Wildland Fire Response Principles,” second bullet regarding response to wildfire in the Wilderness focuses on the natural ecological role of fire and activities are conducted in a manner compatible with overall wilderness management objectives (see FSM 2320).
 - Inserted text under subheading “The Operational Environment,” “Risk Management” regarding the Forest Service guide to Operational Risk Management and other helpful Risk Management resources can be found on the USDA Forest Service website for Operational Risk Management. <https://bit.ly/OperationalRiskManagement>.
- Under heading “Risk Management Protocol”:
 - Clarified that the Forest Service Risk Management Protocol begins with working with partners and stakeholders to identify values affected by fire (positively and negatively) and then forming clear and reasonable objectives around these values. The highest value is human life and thus the primary objective will always be protection of human life. Other objectives will be weighed against the amount of risk responders and the public must accept in order to accomplish the objectives as well as the likelihood of success. The Forest Service is committed to using a three phased risk management protocol.
 - Inserted or clarified text regarding:
 - I. Pre-season
 - Pre-season preparedness work is critical to success when the fire starts.
 - Build decision maker and key stakeholder capacity to manage the uncertainties and inherent risks of fires.
 - Increase understanding of risk management with key stakeholders and partner agencies.
 - Build Agency Administrator capacity to perform as risk managers.
 - Assess risk at a landscape level, looking at National Forest System (NFS) lands and those adjoining lands that may be impacted by a fire leaving NFS land.
 - Develop a common understanding of values to be protected by answering four questions; ‘What is important?’ ‘Why is it important?’ ‘Who it is important to?’ and ‘How important is it?’
 - Complete a risk analysis, with key stakeholders and partner agencies, to predetermine the optimal response strategies for protecting values at risk. Engage key stakeholders and partner agencies in tabletop exercises or other venues to ensure alignment.
 - Initiate dialogue with line officers and stakeholders aimed at understanding, acceptance, and support for alternative risk-based decisions. This is especially important where there is an expectation that a fire will become a long-term event, because of an opportunity to use fire to achieve land management objectives, and/or the need to adjust the level of engagement based on exposure of responders to risk, lack of available resources and the level of risk toward values to be protected.
 - II. During Incident Phase
 - Inserted text under 2. Complete a risk analysis regarding consider alternatives (objectives, strategies and tactics) against desired outcomes, risks to human life (responders and the public), probability of success and values to be protected.
 - III. Post Incident Phase
 - Under bullet “Risk Decision”:
 - Removed 2. What is the exposure of responders for the alternatives being considered? and inserted 2. What is the relative exposure of responders for the alternatives being considered (exposure in terms of numbers of responders needed,

- amount of time (days) of commitment needed to accomplish the objectives and the amount and types of risks these responders will be asked to accept if the alternative is chosen)?
- Removed 4. What alternative provides for the best balance between the desired outcome and exposure to responders? and inserted 4. What alternative provides for the best balance between the desired outcome and risk to responders?
 - Under heading “Specific Line Officer Responsibilities for Fire and Aviation at the Field Level”:
 - Inserted text regarding the Forest Service has developed core fire management competencies for Line Officers with oversight responsibilities over fire management programs.
 - Inserted bullet regarding ability to serve as an Agency Administrator exercising authority to initiate prescribed fire and other hazardous fuel reduction activities.
 - Clarified text regarding ability to provide a fully staffed, highly qualified, and diversified firefighting workforce that exists in a “life first” and “readiness” environment.
 - Under subheading “Responsibilities”:
 - Inserted bullet regarding Line Officers are responsible for all aspects of fire management.
 - Removed text regarding ensure the DLA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog is used as the primary and mandatory source of supply for wildland fire suppression equipment, supplies and protective clothing. Any deviation must follow the requirements listed in FSH 6309.32 - Required Sources of Supplies and Services and FAR 8.002 - Priorities for Use of Government Supply Sources. The deviation must be supported by a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Risk Assessment (RA) that documents the specific reason the stock item does not meet the job requirements and is signed by the applicable line officer. The purchasing official must confirm that the JHA/RA supports the alternate purchase. The DLA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog is at <https://www.fedmall.mil/index.html>.
 - Inserted text regarding ensure operational fire management responsibilities remain separated from agency administrator responsibilities in order to avoid collateral duty conflicts.
 - Removed text under subheading “Preparedness” regarding wildland fire and inserted wildfire.
 - Under subheading “Wildfire Response”:
 - Bullet 4 – Removed text, “all wildfires must have a protection objective.”
 - Bullet 7 – Inserted FSM 5135 at the end of the sentence.
 - Bullet 8 – Removed the term “wildland fire” and inserted “wildfire.”
 - Changed subheading from “Responsibilities and Oversight” to “Wildfire Response Responsibilities and Oversight”:
 - Removed bullet regarding Line Officers are responsible for all aspects of fire management.
 - Inserted text regarding Agency Administrators must approve and publish decisions in WFDSS in a timely manner and issue delegations of authority to the Incident Commander in accordance with FSM 5133.3.
 - Inserted text regarding Line Officers will assign Agency Administrators to oversee incidents based on Certification Level according to incident type.
 - Changed table column heading from “USFS Approval¹” to “USFS AA Certification Level to Approve WFDSS Decisions & Provide Incident Oversight¹.”
 - In table column heading “USFS AA Certification Level to Approve WFDSS Decisions & Provide Incident Oversight¹”:
 - Removed text in row “Type 1” regarding Regional Forester level with National oversight and inserted Advanced level.
 - Removed text in row “Type 2” regarding Forest Supervisor level with oversight by the Regional Forester and inserted Journey level.
 - Removed text in row “Type 3, 4, 5” regarding District Ranger level with oversight by the Forest Supervisor and inserted Working level.

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- Removed text regarding this authority may be delegated to an Agency Administrator who meets wildfire response certification requirements.
 - Clarified text under bullet “Critical long duration wildfire oversight roles include ensuring that:” coordination with partners and potentially affected parties is conducted (including smoke impacts); Unified Command is implemented early when appropriate.
 - Inserted text under subheading “Safety” regarding ensure appropriate investigation or Lessons Learned analyses are conducted for incidents, entrapments, and serious accidents (see FSM 6730).
 - Under subheading “Prescribed Fire”:
 - Inserted bullet to coordinate prescribed fire program activities with Regional air quality specialists and Federal, State, Tribal, air pollution control district or county regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with their regulations supported by the Clean Air Act.
 - Inserted bullet regarding when multiple wildland fire events are occurring within an airshed, or any airshed is impacted by ongoing wildland fire events, fire managers will consider the cumulative impact to air quality. Initiation of new prescribed fire must be in compliance with air quality regulations and standards.
 - Inserted bullet regarding all prescribed fires should be conducted using Basic Smoke Management Practices. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service Technical Note (2011).
http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1046311.pdf
 - Changed bullet from “Review and approve Prescribed Fire Plans” to “Review and approve Prescribed Fire Plans and ignitions.”
 - Under bullet “Review and approve Prescribed Fire Plans and ignitions,” inserted sub bullet regarding engage in the development of the Complexity Analysis reviews and approve the final complexity rating.
 - Removed bullet “Approve Prescribed Fire Plans:” and some text regarding minimum qualifications for Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, other Line Officers and formally delegated “Acting” Line Officers to approve prescribed fire plans and associated bullets; attending an agency administrator session at the National Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC) may be substituted for the minimum training requirement for approving prescribed fire plans only; and authority to approve prescribed fire plans is held at the Forest Supervisor level but may be delegated in writing to other qualified line officers or staff. Delegations should be based on meeting the minimum training or experience described above and demonstrated ability. Documentation that supports the delegated authorities should be included in the individuals training records.
- Changed heading from “Agency Administrator Roles and Responsibilities for Incident Management” to “Agency Administrator Training and Certifications for Wildland Fire Management” and:
 - Inserted text that there are two separate and distinct certifications that administrators must attain related to fire management, one for wildfire decision-making and one for prescribed fire. The training and experience requirements and certification process for both wildfire and prescribed fire are described.
 - Clarified and inserted text under subheading “Agency Administrator Core Competencies” regarding core competencies that must be demonstrated by Agency Administrators exercising decision making authority for wildfires or prescribed fires include:
 - Risk Management
 - Wildfire response and incident management processes
 - WFDSS/IFTDSS and other decision support tools
 - Fuels management and prescribed fire processes
 - Fire Prevention, mitigation, and education processes
 - Social, political, economic and environmental impacts of wildland fire management activities
 - Collaboration with partners and stakeholders
 - Fiscal management

- Inserted text regarding these core competencies form the basis for the Agency Administrator Task Book which is used to document that an individual has indeed demonstrated these competencies while working toward certification. For access to the Task Book, Pathways Chart and additional information on the Forest Service Agency Administrator Fire Certification Programs, visit the Decision Support Toolbox at: <https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov>.
 - Under subheading “Definitions”:
 - Removed text under “Agency Administrator” regarding an individual with the delegated authority for an incident, and inserted a general term meaning the official with the delegated authority, responsibility, and qualifications for decision making on incidents or prescribed fire within a particular administrative unit.
 - Inserted text under “Agency Administrator Trainee” regarding an Agency Administrator working on certification at any given level by performing the role under the supervision and authority of the Agency Administrator and/or Representative.
 - Clarified “Acting Agency Administrator” as an individual who has been delegated in writing the necessary authorities to act in an Agency Administrator roll and is certified at the level required by the incident complexity to provide relief and support.
 - Changed subheading from “Agency Administrator Certification Program” to “Agency Administrator Wildfire Certification Program” and:
 - Clarified bullet regarding Regional Foresters are accountable for annual certification of Agency Administrators.
 - Removed text referring to “Learning Action Plan” and inserted “Task Book” throughout the chapter and reference to the Wildfire Pathways Chart.
 - Clarified bullet that when the complexity level of a wildfire exceeds an Agency Administrator’s certification, a coach will be assigned.
 - Inserted bullet regarding care should be taken when assigning Acting AA’s to ensure operational fire management responsibilities remain separated from agency administrator responsibilities in order to avoid collateral duty conflicts.
 - Inserted bullet regarding Agency Administrator competencies (aka certification level) supersedes position (e.g., a District Ranger certified at the Advanced Level may be the AA for a Type I Incident).
 - Inserted text regarding this certification program will be periodically evaluated and updated as needed. When changes are made in training requirements, the Regional Forester may choose to “grandfather” Agency Administrators thereby maintaining their existing certification level; however, the updated training requirements must be met before advancement to the next level or before recertification after a lapse in currency.
 - Clarified bullet regarding the Coaching/Shadowing functions, to be administered by each region, is an integral part of this certification program.
 - Removed, inserted or clarified text under subheading “Agency Administrators will be evaluated in three basic areas” regarding Working Level, Journey Level, Advance Level, Evaluation Process, and Currency.
 - Moved subheading “Definitions” and associated text forward in the chapter.
 - Inserted subheading “Agency Administrator Prescribed Fire Certification” and associated text.
 - Inserted subheading “Agency Administrators will be evaluated in three basic areas” and associated text regarding Guidelines, Low Complexity Level, Moderate Complexity Level, High Complexity Level, Evaluation Process, Currency and Guidance on Selection of Coaches.
- Inserted bullet under heading “Specific Fire Management Staff Responsibilities for Fire Operations at the Field Level,” subheading “Prescribed Fire” regarding responsibility for prescribed fires in Patrol/Mop-up status may be assigned to the unit Duty Officer (see below) until declared “out.” The DO may assign either a Burn Boss or Incident Commander at a level commensurate with expected activities to coordinate on-site actions (e.g., ICT5 for 1 engine to patrol). In the event that elements of the burn plan other than patrol/mop-up (e.g., holding or

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contingency) become necessary, then an appropriately qualified Burn Boss will be assigned to continue implementation of the approved burn plan.

Chapter 6 – BIA

- Removed subheading “BIA Fire Leadership Team” and associated text.
- Under heading “National Model 52 Wildland Engine Program”:
 - Removed the term “refurbishing” in regards to replacement parts.
 - Under subheading “Mission/Policy,” bullet three, removed the term “refurbishment.”
 - Under subheading “Organization,” moved “Eastern” from Southwest Center to Northern Center.

Chapter 7 – Safety and Risk Management

- Inserted FS-specific text under heading “Policy,” regarding for additional safety guidance, refer to the USDA Forest Service Operational Risk Management website:
<https://bit.ly/OperationalRiskManagement>.
- Inserted text throughout the chapter referencing Risk Assessments (RA) as equivalent to a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA).
- Inserted FS-specific information under heading “Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)/Risk Assessment (RA)” regarding JHAs must include a description of the emergency medical procedures, identification of key individuals, and actions that will be taken to ensure prompt and effective medical care and evacuation. See FSH 6709.11, section 21.1 for more information. The FS Operational Risk Management Guide, process and forms for conducting a RA can be found on the USDA Forest Service Operational Risk Management website:
<https://bit.ly/OperationalRiskManagement>.
- Inserted text under heading “Work/Rest,” bullet two, regarding the Incident Commander or Agency Administrator will justify work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet 2:1 work to rest ratio. Justification will be documented in the daily incident records, made available to the employee by the Finance Section/local unit, and must include mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue.
- Changed heading from “Management Controls to Mitigate Exposure” to “Management Controls to Mitigate Risks to Responders.”
- Clarified and inserted text under heading “Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),” subheading “Fire Shelters,” regarding training in inspection and deployment of fire shelters will be provided prior to issuance. Fire shelters do not have a shelf life; serviceability depends on the shelter’s condition. Firefighters will inspect their shelter at the beginning of each fire season and periodically throughout the year to ensure they are serviceable. Inspection criteria can be found here: https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/php/library_card.php?p_num=1151%202301P.
- Under heading “Fireline Safety”:
 - Inserted text under subheading “Smoke and Carbon Monoxide” regarding ordering Air Resource Advisors should be considered when smoke impacts are of concern in the ICS-215A.
 - Inserted FS-specific text under subheading “Location of Fire Camps and Plans to Remain in Place” regarding at a minimum, plans should also include live-ability considerations including air quality index guidelines, functionality of location and facilities, and safety factors for post burn conditions.

Chapter 8 – Interagency Coordination and Cooperation

- Removed heading “National Dispatch/Coordination System” and associated text. Information can be found in Chapter 19.
- Removed heading “Local and Geographic Area Drawdown” and associated text. Information can be found in Chapter 19.
- Removed heading “National Ready Reserve (NRR)” and associated text. Information can be found in Chapter 19.
- Changed heading and associated text from “Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook” to “NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management.”

- Inserted BIA-specific text under heading “Annual Operating Plans (AOPs),” subheading “General Elements of an Annual Operating Plan” regarding BIA may accept the standards of any local cooperator through the duration of an incident when the cooperator has a current cooperative fire response agreement with BLM, and the cooperator is in compliance with the agreement. Personnel from agencies that do not subscribe to the NWCG qualification standards may be used on agency managed fires, and must only be assigned to duties commensurate with their competencies, qualifications, and equipment capabilities.

Chapter 9 – Fire Management Planning

- Under heading “Concepts and Definitions”:
 - Clarified the definition of “Fire Management Plan” as a plan that identifies and integrates all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved land/resource management plans. It defines a program to manage wildland fires (wildfire and prescribed fire). The plan is supplemented by operational plans, including but not limited to preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire burn plans and prevention plans. Fire Management Plan’s assure that wildland fire management goals and components are coordinated.
 - Removed the definition of “Fire Management Unit.”
- Inserted new heading “Air Quality and Smoke Management” and associated text.

Chapter 10 – Preparedness

- Clarified text under heading “Preparedness Overview” regarding fire preparedness is the state of being ready to respond to wildfires based on identified objectives and is the result of activities that are planned and implemented prior to fire ignitions.
- Under heading “Preparedness Planning”:
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding districts can use a FDOP, or Fire Danger Analysis Document (FDAD), or Fire Weather and Fire Occurrence Analysis Document (FWOAD) depending on which format best meets their needs.
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding references, templates, and other supporting materials pertaining to the FDAD/FWOAD process can be found at <https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/blm-fire-danger-site/>.
 - Inserted text to bullet regarding preparedness plans should include, but are not limited to: Fire Danger Operating Plan (as specified by agency requirements).
 - Inserted bullets regarding preparedness plans should include, but are not limited to: Geographic Area Mobilization Guide (updated annually) and Geographic Area Draw-Down guidance (updated annually).
- Under heading “Fire Danger Operating Plan”:
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding districts can use a FDOP, or Fire Danger Analysis Document (FDAD), or a Fire Weather and Fire Occurrence Analysis Document (FWOAD) depending on which format best meets their needs.
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding BLM offices are required to have a FDOP, a Fire Danger Analysis Document (FDAD), or a Fire Weather Occurrence Analysis Document (FWOAD) by May, 2020. BLM offices are required to complete and document their review every other year and updated every five years.
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding reference templates and other supporting materials pertaining to the FDAD/FWOAD process can be found at <https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/blm-fire-danger-site/>.
- Inserted and clarified text under heading “Step-up/Staffing Plans,” subheading “Staffing Level” regarding the Step-up/Staffing Plan describes pre-identified escalating responses at fire business or climatological thresholds analyzed in the FDOP and FMP.
- Inserted BLM-specific text under heading “Fire Prevention/Mitigation Plans” regarding refer to the BLM MS-9212 – Fire Prevention.
- Inserted BLM-specific text under heading “Fire Danger PocketCard for Firefighter Safety” regarding all units will develop, maintain and ensure either a PocketCard or a Seasonal Trend Analysis is available to all personnel. Alaska is required to complete a Seasonal Trend Analysis in lieu of PocketCards. Seasonal Trend Analysis must be updated and posted at least

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every two weeks during fire season and PocketCards must be updated at least every other year. Final approval for PocketCards and Seasonal Trend Analyses will be obtained from the BLM representative to the NWCG Fire Danger Subcommittee (current contact information available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/fire-danger-subcommittee/roster>). Additionally, FA IM-2018-022 describes BLM required criteria for a Seasonal Trend Analysis.

- Inserted BLM-specific text under heading “Local Unit Seasonal Tracking” regarding districts can use a FDOP, or Fire Danger Analysis Document (FDAD), or a Fire Weather and Fire Occurrence Analysis Document (FWOAD) depending on which format best meets their needs.
- Inserted FS-specific text under heading “Fire Severity Funding,” subheading “Labor Cost Coding For Fire Severity Funded Personnel” regarding firefighters under a severity order will continue to charge base salary to a B-code and overtime to the severity S-code, even if it is outside their funded tour. If called out to an incident these resources will be under the same rules of charging base salary to a B-code and overtime to the P-code. Regions must manage funding of tours within allocations provided. Firefighters working on an incident beyond their planned and funded tour will continue to charge their Base 8 hours to a B-code (WFPR). Regions must contact WO FAM if they believe they might exceed their allocations. All firefighters charge their Base 8 hours to Preparedness job codes – either WFPR or a B-code unless they are working on other non-fire project work outside of fire season. These situations are accounted for in the allocations by basing the allocations on the last three years of salary expenditures.

Chapter 11 – Incident Management and Response

- Under heading “Incident Characteristics,” subheading “Type 3 Incident Command”:
 - Removed text regarding October 1, 2018 and inserted October 1, 2019.
 - Removed text regarding EB-M-16-016, *Transition Plan for upcoming changes to national mobilization requirements for Type 3 general staff positions and inserted NWCG Memorandum No. 18-002, National Mobilization Requirements for Type 3 General Staff Positions – Change of Implementation date, and Clarification of Position Task Book (PTB) Administration.*
 - Removed text regarding **after October 1, 2018**, the PMS 310-1 position standard will be required for Type 3 incident mobilization outside the employee’s hosting unit local dispatch area. The position standards in the table above or locally established position standards will only be allowed for employee’s operating on Type 3 incidents within their local dispatch area and inserted **after October 1, 2019**, the PMS 310-1 position standard will be required for national mobilization for Type 3 Command and General Staff positions.
- Under subheading “WFDSS Approval Authorities by Agency”:
 - Changed table title from “DOI WFDSS Approval Authorities (outside of Alaska)” to “DOI WFDSS Approval Authorities.”
 - Inserted DOI Alaska-specific text regarding Alaska WFDSS decisions require an additional approval from the protecting Agency Fire Management Officer as per the Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan. In addition, Alaska WFDSS decisions affecting Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation lands and DOI lands not managed by BLM require an additional approval from the Alaska Fire Service (AFS) as the fiscally responsible agent. Fiscal approvals for these wildfires with costs less than \$5 million are delegated to AFS Zone Fire Management Officers. Fiscal approvals for these wildfires with costs of \$5 million and above are delegated to the Alaska Fire Service Manager.
 - Inserted BLM-specific text regarding approvals may be re-delegated to the Field or National Conservation Lands Manager per agency policy. See Chapter 2 for fire cost notification requirements.
 - Removed BLM-specific text regarding District Managers will provide written notification to the state and/or national director when an incident meets or exceeds federal combined expenditures of \$5 million and/or \$10 million in suppression costs, AND more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by the BLM. Written notifications should be emailed with a cc to the Fire and Aviation Directorate Assistant Director. For

current direction, see Chapter 2 heading “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations,” table heading “Assigned Program Responsibility” for State Director, District Manager and Agency Administrator.

- Clarified FS-specific text in table “USFS WFDSS Approval Authorities.”
- Removed “DOI WFDSS Approval Process in Alaska” table.
- Under heading “Post-Wildfire Activities”:
 - Clarified text regarding emergency stabilization actions must be taken within one year plus twenty-one days after the ignition date of a wildfire and documented in a Burned Area Emergency Response Plan or an agency specific plan. Within the Department of Interior, the Bureau Director may approve an extension beyond the one-year plus twenty-one days to accommodate circumstances related to climatic conditions or other significant events.
 - Inserted FS-specific text regarding rehabilitation efforts are documented in a Burned Area Emergency Response Plan (BAER).
 - Removed text under subheading “Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Teams” regarding initial requests for funding for BAER should be submitted to the appropriate Agency Administrator for approval within 7 calendar days after the total containment of the fire. If additional time is needed, extensions may be negotiated with those having approval authority. Inserted text regarding the Agency Administrator is responsible for submitting the Emergency Stabilization BAER plan to the Regional Office for review and approval within the timeframes established by each Agency. Coordination should occur with the Regional BAER Coordinator. If needed, extensions can be negotiated with those having the appropriate level of approval authority.

Chapter 12 – Suppression Chemicals and Delivery Systems

- Clarified text under heading “Types of Fire Chemicals,” subheading “Fire Suppressant Foam” regarding foam may be applied by engines and portable pumps. Aerial application of foam is no longer approved on Federal Jurisdictional Lands. See the QPL for specific uses for each product.

Chapter 13 – Firefighter Training and Qualifications

- Under heading “Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS)”:
 - Removed text under subheading “Incident Qualification Card” regarding medical screening.
 - Inserted FWS-specific text regarding see Fire Management Handbook for guidance on qualification recertification.
- Inserted the new web address under heading “Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training” for RT-130, *Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training*.
- Under heading “Medical Examinations”:
 - Inserted new subheading “Exam/Self-Certification Periodicity and Changes in Medical Status” and text regarding a baseline or periodic exam is required every 36-months from the date of the exam regardless of the qualification date. Annual self-certifications between periodic exams must be completed within 12-months of the previous medical qualification date.
 - Inserted BLM- and NPS-specific text regarding if an employee’s medical qualification expires prior to successfully clearing a periodic exam or self-certification, they are no longer medically qualified. It is incumbent on the supervisor to block, in IQCS, all arduous duty related qualifications until the employee has been medically cleared to resume arduous duty work.
 - Inserted or clarified text regarding supervisors may order a self-certification for employees prior to the 12-month expiration of the last medical qualification to accommodate unit level alignment of recertification schedule (RT-130, medical qualification or work capacity testing). A self-certification must precede the arduous work capacity test by no more than 45 days prior to fitness testing. If a Department of the Interior arduous duty wildland firefighter (WLFF) develops a change in medical status between periodic medical exams or self-certifications, the WLFF is required to

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- o immediately report this change to his/her supervisor and report it at the time of the next medical exam or self-certification. Changes in medical status that require reporting are:
 - Injury or illness which may prevent performance of arduous duty.
 - Expiration of periodic medical exam or self-certification.
- o *Inserted BLM-, NPS- and BIA-specific text regarding if a change in medical status for BLM/NPS/BIA arduous duty firefighters has been reported, it is incumbent on the BLM/NPS/BIA/Tribal supervisor to block, in IQCS, all arduous duty related qualifications until the employee has been medically cleared to resume arduous duty work.*
- o Removed NPS-specific text regarding medical clearance must be entered into IQCS.
- o Under subheading “Medical Exam Process for Light and Moderate Fitness Levels”:
 - Clarified text regarding beginning January 2019, the medical screening process for light and moderate work capacity testing (Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ)) will be centralized and automated through the DOI MSP’s national contractor. For details on the process visit https://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards.
 - Removed text regarding the examining physician will submit the completed OF-178 (and applicable supplements) to the employee’s servicing human resources office, where it will be reviewed and retained in the employee’s medical file.
 - Removed BLM- and NPS-specific text regarding standards for medical examinations using the OF-178 for light and moderate positions are available. https://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/.
- o Removed subheading “Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ)” and associated text.
- Under subheading “Work Capacity Test (WCT) Administration”:
 - o Clarified text regarding WCT Administrators must confirm medical clearance at the appropriate fitness level through review of a clearance list provided by the Fire Management Officer (or delegate) or by verifying certificate of WCT clearance at the time of the WCT. There is no need for the WCT Administrator to collect or retain copies of the certificate of clearance.
 - o Removed WCT results shall be documented on the WCT Record available online as Appendix Q and inserted WCT results shall be documented on the WCT Record available online as Appendix O.
- Under heading “Chainsaw Operators and Fallers”:
 - o Inserted text regarding the Final Evaluator’s Verification for a FAL2 trainee must be completed by a qualified FAL2 or FAL1.
 - o Inserted FWS-specific text regarding all wildfire saw operation qualifications are maintained through the IQCS system and displayed on the Incident Qualification Card and to follow evaluator qualification requirements listed in the FAL1, FAL2, and FAL3 position task books.
 - o Removed text in BIA-specific table, row “FAL1,” column “Training Currency” regarding Certification/Recertification and inserted qualification maintained through performance in the position.
 - o Inserted BIA-specific text regarding the FAL1 that needs to be recertified every 3 years may be recertified by other agencies.

Chapter 14 – Firefighting Equipment

- Removed text under heading “Firefighting Engines,” subheading “Engine Inventories” regarding the standard inventory for engines is found in Appendix M, and inserted refer to agency specific requirements regarding standard inventory for engines.
- Under heading “Dozer/Tractor Plows”:
 - o Clarified text under subheading “Dozer/Tractor Plow Training and Qualifications” regarding agency wildland fire dozers/tractor plows will be staffed with personnel that meet the training and experience standards for Dozer Operator (DZOP) or Dozer Operator Initial Attack (DZIA) per the *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*. While on fire assignments, all operators and support crew will meet PPE requirements.
 - o Removed subheading “Dozer/Tractor Plow Physical Fitness Standards” and associated text.
- Under heading “All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV)”:

- Inserted BLM-specific text regarding BLM personnel will not use ATVs for any wildland fire management activity including preparedness, suppression, prescribed fire, hazardous fuels reduction, post-fire rehabilitation, and emergency stabilization and restoration, regardless of incident jurisdiction or project/activity location after January 1, 2018. State Directors, Assistant State Directors and the Director, National Operations Center have the authority to approve exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis. All requests for exceptions must be in writing and will include:
 - A description of how the ATV is essential for the performance of official duties;
 - Analysis of the alternatives that were considered;
 - Justification for an ATV being the only viable alternative; and
 - Concurrence by the applicable Field Manager, District Manager, District Safety Manager, and the State Safety Manager.
- Cost is not a basis for approval of an exception and no exceptions may be made to the existing ban on industrial use of ATVs.
- Removed BIA-specific text regarding any ATV currently in service may continue to be utilized for non-industrial wildland fire management activities/operations until January 1, 2019.
- Removed BIA-specific text regarding the Polaris Ace.
- Inserted BIA-specific text regarding employees of cooperating agencies/entities may utilize ATVs on BIA incidents if allowed by their individual agency/entity policy.
- Inserted BLM-specific text regarding UTV instructors must complete the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) Instructor course.
- Removed BIA-specific text regarding the ATVO qualification on the Red Card.
- Inserted BIA-specific text regarding upon completion of UTV training and operator certification requirements, Utility Terrain Vehicle Operator will be placed on the employee's Incident Qualification and Certification (IQCS) Card (Red Card). IQCS Certifying Officials are responsible for verifying that UTV operator qualifications are current, and that the UTVO qualification is removed from the Red Card if training, certification, or currency requirements lapse.
- Inserted FS-specific text under subheading "Required PPE" regarding UTV Helmet (for fire use) – Helmets must have Snell SA certification. Wearing hardhats while driving or riding on a UTV is not allowed. Forest Service policy provides no exception to the helmet requirement for low speeds, smooth travel surfaces, or administrative use. UTV Helmet (for fire use) requirements are the same as ATV use. Helmets must meet Snell, or DOT ANSI certification. A ¾ face model meeting Snell or DOT certification is acceptable for use. Use of half "shorty" helmets requires a JHA/RA for fireline use approved by the Incident Commander or relevant Line Officer and must include justification for its use. Refer to MTDC Tech Tip 5 publication, *A Helmet for ATV Operators with Fireline Duties* (0651-6 2350-MTDC).
- Inserted text under heading "Incident Remote Automated Weather Stations" regarding IRAWS are intended for use on or near the fireline or at other all-hazard incidents, and are installed by NIFC technicians and operated as desired by Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN) and/or Incident Meteorologists (IMET) to record and distribute real time weather data.

Chapter 15 – Communications

- Clarified text under heading "Radio Communications" regarding radio communications provide for the information needed for the command/control and safety of personnel and resources.
- Clarified BLM-specific text under heading "Radio Contracts" regarding the Branch of Radio Operations is FA-332.
- Under heading "Radio Frequency Management":
 - Inserted text and heading/footers regarding, "In accordance with Executive Order 13556 and USDA/DOI policies and guidelines, all documents with USDA/DOI frequencies that involve the safety of life and property must be labeled in accordance with Department of Defense (DOD) 8500E, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 800-53 and the National Archives CUI Marking Handbook v1-1. Therefore, any documents containing frequency information dealing with life and/or property, whose dissemination

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is not controlled with a password, must be labeled at the top and bottom of each page with, **Controlled Unclassified Information/Basic** and controlled as such.”

- Clarified text regarding Frequency Modulated (FM) and Amplitude Modulated (AM) frequencies are approved and assigned by designated Washington Office frequency manager and managed by state and local Communications Officers. Frequencies shall not be transmitted without written permission from formally appointed frequency management personnel at the local, state, regional, or national level.
- Inserted text regarding radio interference must be reported to NIFC CDO (or COMC when assigned) when adversely impacting incident communications. Minimum reporting information: location, radio frequency, time and date (including interference duration), and sound or source for interference.
- Changed heading from “Daily Operational Frequency Management” to “Daily and Initial Attack Operational Frequency Management.”
- Clarified text under heading “Daily and Initial Attack Operational Frequency Management” regarding air operations initial attack frequencies, both AM and FM, are assigned by the FAA and departmental frequency managers. These interagency assignments are coordinated with the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) by the NIICD CDO.
- Under heading “Mutual Aid Frequency Management”:
 - Clarified text regarding mutual aid frequency sharing agreements can be made at the local level. Agreements are only approved in the specific location where assigned.
 - Removed text regarding NIFC national fire frequencies are not to be used for these agreements. The only exception may occur when an agency holds a National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) Radio Frequency Authorization (RFA) for a frequency that is included in the NIFC Channeling Plan. If this occurs, notification and coordination with the NIFC CDO is requested.
- Under heading “Pre-assigned National Frequencies”:
 - Clarified text under subheading “National Air Guard Frequency (168.6250 MHz)” regarding a National Interagency Air Guard frequency will be used for emergency aviation communications. Continuous monitoring of this frequency is mandatory by agency dispatch centers and aircraft.
 - Moved text up under subheading “National Flight Following Frequency (168.6500 MHz)” regarding the National Flight Following frequency is to be used for flight following, dispatch, or redirection of aircraft. No other use is authorized.
 - Changed heading from “National Interagency Air Tactics Frequencies (166.6750 MHz, 167.9500 MHz, 169.1500 MHz, 169.2000 MHz, 170.0000 MHz)” to “National Interagency Air Tactics Frequencies (166.6125 MHz, 167.9500 MHz, 169.1500 MHz, 169.2000 MHz, 168.4000 MHz).”
 - Clarified text under heading “National Interagency Air Tactics Frequencies (166.6125 MHz, 167.9500 MHz, 169.1500 MHz, 169.2000 MHz, 168.4000 MHz)” regarding:
 - Frequencies used to support air-to-air or ground-to-air communications on incidents west of the 95th meridian.
 - Used for air-to-air and ground-to-air communications only.
 - Aircraft radio transmitter power output limit: 10 watts.
 - Prohibited:
 - Use as ground tactical operational channel
 - Use in base station and/or repeater
 - Changed subheading from “National Interagency Airtanker Base Frequency (123.9750 MHz)” to “National Interagency Airtanker Base Frequencies.”
 - Clarified text under heading “National Interagency Airtanker Base Frequencies” regarding the National Interagency airtanker base frequencies are engineered and assigned by the FAA frequency managers on a yearly basis. Each frequency is restricted to a service volume of a 40 nautical mile radius and 10,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) or 5,000 feet above ground level (AGL) from the specified latitude and longitude of the airtanker base as annotated in the National Airtanker Base Directory. NO other frequencies are authorized for this use.

- Changed subheading from “Smokejumper and Rappel/RADS Air-to-Ground Frequency (168.550 MHz)” to “Smokejumper and Rappel/RADS Air-to-Ground Frequency (168.5500 MHz).”
 - Clarified text regarding the frequency is assigned to Smokejumpers for DOI, USDA and other agencies. Specifically dedicated as a smokejumper national air-to-ground tactical channel. Secondary use is authorized for BLM and USFS Rappel/rope Assisted Delivery System (RADS) aerial delivery operations. Channel must be toned on both transmit and receive for all smokejumper and RADS teams to insure that interference issues are avoided. Smokejumpers will use tone 123.0 and RADS will use 110.9. Use of this frequency other than for the delivery of aerial firefighters is prohibited.
 - Use is only for delivery of aerial firefighters. CTCSS tone assignments for transmit and receive are:
 - Smokejumper: 123.0
 - Rappel/RADS air-to-ground: 110.9
 - Clarified text under subheading “Government-wide Area Common User Frequencies (163.1000 MHz, 168.3500 MHz)” regarding these shared frequencies are used on a non-interference basis and are not exclusive to any user.
 - Changed subheading from “National Interagency Fire Tactical Frequencies (168.0500 MHz, 168.200 MHz, 168.6000 MHz, 168.2500 MHz, 166.7250 MHz, 166.7750 MHz)” to “National Interagency Fire Tactical Frequencies (168.0500 MHz, 168.2000 MHz, 168.6000 MHz, 168.2500 MHz, 166.7250 MHz, 166.7750 MHz).”
 - Clarified text under heading “National Interagency Fire Tactical Frequencies (168.0500 MHz, 168.2000 MHz, 168.6000 MHz, 168.2500 MHz, 166.7250 MHz, 166.7750 MHz)” regarding these shared frequencies are approved for ground tactical operations (line of sight) on incidents.
 - Prohibited Use:
 - Air-to-air communications; and
 - Air-to-ground communications.
- Permission to use these frequencies requires prior approval from the NIFC CDO (or COMC when mobilized).
- Clarified text under heading “Military Communications on an Incident” regarding military units assigned to an incident are provided NIRSC communications equipment. Each battalion is typically assigned 80 handheld radios. Intercrew communications within a military unit is provided by the military on their radios and frequencies. All incident frequencies are assigned by the COML using form ICS-205.

Chapter 16 – Aviation Operations and Resources

- Clarified and inserted FS-specific text under heading “Organizational Responsibilities,” subheading “National Office – U.S. Department of Agriculture” regarding:
 - The FS has responsibility for all aspects of its aviation program, including aviation policy and budget development, aircraft acquisition, aircraft operations, aviation safety and risk management, budget, pilot standardization, and airworthiness. In addition, the FS has operational responsibility for functional oversight of aviation assets and facilities, operational coordination and utilization, accident investigation, and aircraft and pilot inspection.
 - Refer to FSM 5704 for list of responsibilities for the Assistant Director (AD), Aviation.
- Changed subheading from “Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASAT)” to Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT) and associated text.
- Clarified text under heading “Low-level Flight Operations” regarding the only fixed-wing aircraft missions authorized for low-level fire operations are smokejumper/para-cargo, Aerial Supervision Module (ASM), Lead operations, and aerial dispensing of retardant, water enhancers and water.
- Removed all text under heading “Unmanned Aircraft Systems” and inserted subheadings “Policy,” “Personnel,” “Crew Composition,” “Ordering,” “Operations,” “Key Points,” “Additional Information,” and associated text.

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- Under heading “Airspace Coordination”:
 - Clarified text that the *NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination* provides direction and procedures for airspace coordination.
 - Clarified FS-specific text regarding refer to FSM 5709.16, Chapter 30 for additional airspace information.
- Under subheading “Interim Flight and Duty Limitations Implementation”:
 - Inserted text regarding interim flight and duty limitations are written to apply to federal contract resources. States may apply them if they so choose. The interim flight and duty limitations can apply to agency pilots, but additional days off must be coordinated with the agency pilot’s supervisor and must follow federal pay and leave regulations.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Phase 1 – Standard Flight and Duty Limitations (Abbreviated Summary)” regarding a maximum of 42 hours flight time during any consecutive 6-day period. When a pilot acquires 36 or more flight hours in a consecutive 6-day period, the pilot shall be given the following day off. A new 6-day cycle shall begin upon return from any day off.
- Removed text under heading “Helitack,” table “Exclusive Use Fire Helicopter Position Prerequisites” regarding HEB2 and inserted HEBM.
- Under heading “Aerial Supervision Module (ASM)”:
 - Removed text regarding “LEDP” and inserted “LPIL.”
 - Inserted new subheading “Aerial Supervision Coordination” and associated text.
- Removed text under heading “Reconnaissance or Patrol Flights” regarding “LEDP” and inserted “LPIL.”
- Under heading “Airtankers”:
 - Inserted text regarding large airtankers are primarily used for initial attack and are initial attack capable without leadplane/ASM supervision. Very large airtankers are primarily used for large fire support and require leadplane/ASM supervision to be on scene prior to arriving on the fire.
 - Removed text regarding Federal airtankers are owned by the Forest Service and operated by contractors.
 - Inserted text regarding some states may contract for commercially-owned airtankers, own airtankers or order airtankers through Compacts either state-to-state or state-to-Canadian Province.
 - Clarified FS-specific text regarding airtankers operate in accordance with 14 CFR Part 137, specific contracts, Grants of Exemption, Forest Service Manual (5700) and Handbook (5709.16) and the National Airtanker Operations Plan.
 - Removed text under subheading “Airtanker Types” regarding Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT) load capacity is 5,000 gallons and inserted 8,000 gallons or more.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Airtanker Types” regarding Type 1 airtanker load capacity is 3,000-4,999 gallons.
 - Inserted subheading “Very Large Airtankers (VLATs)” and associated text.
 - Changed subheading from “Canadian Airtankers” to “Canadian Airtankers and Water Scoopers” and inserted text regarding Canadian airtankers and scoopers can be activated through the NIFC/CIFFC agreement or through Compacts (US State-to-Canadian Province). These Canadian airtankers and water scoopers typically operate as a “group” with Canadian Bird Dogs as part of their operational model. Bird Dogs have a Canadian Air Attack Officer (AAO) on board and function similar to a U.S. ASM. Canadian water scoopers can operate with or without their Bird Dog. They do not require aerial supervision unless they request it.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Airtanker Rotation” regarding the Federal national airtanker fleet includes a mix of Exclusive Use (EU), Call When Needed (CWN)/On-Call Type 1 and Type 2 airtankers (Large Airtankers/LATs), Very Large Airtankers (VLATs), or Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs).
 - Inserted text under heading “Airtanker Rotation” regarding all LATs, VLATs and SEATs (including federally approved Cooperator and Canadian) operating from the same base shall be dispatched in rotation based on the type of airtanker requested on a first in/first out basis regardless of contract type (EU, CWN/On-Call or Forest Service owned) or the location of the incident.

- Clarified text under subheading “Exceptions” regarding airtankers that do not have an Initial Attack (IA) rated Pilot-in-Command will not be dispatched to a fire unless a leadplane or Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) is on scene upon the arrival of the airtanker.
- Clarified text under subheading “Rotation of State Airtankers” regarding in cases where federally approved State airtankers are operated in conjunction with federally contracted airtankers on an incident primarily on federal lands, the State airtankers are added to the rotation after the federal airtankers at the beginning of each day.
- Inserted heading “Large and Very Large Airtanker Coordination” and associated text.
- Under heading “Airtanker Base Operations”:
 - Inserted text regarding all permanent, CWN and temporary bases will have an Airtanker Base Operations Plan (ABOP), and a qualified Airtanker Base Manager (ATBM) prior to operations out of the airtanker base airport. All personnel conducting airtanker base operations should review the SABO and have it available. ATBM’s are authorized to manage Single Engine Airtankers (SEAT), the ATBM should review the *NWCG Standards for Single Engine Airtanker Operations* and have it available. Both Large Airtankers as well as SEATs have applicable aircraft contracts that will be available for reference, as well as the National Long-Term Fire Retardant Contract.
 - Removed text under subheading “Loading Operations” regarding Forest Service owned airtankers.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Airtanker Base Personnel” regarding there is identified training for the positions at airtanker bases; the SABO contains descriptions of Airtanker Base support positions and their roles and responsibilities. The *NIMS Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide* (PMS 310-1) lists required training for these positions. The ATBM provides supervision and coordination of airtanker base operations. The ATBM may report to the local Aviation Manager and/or Incident Aviation Manager.
- Under heading “Single Engine Airtankers”:
 - Inserted text under subheading “Single Engine Airtanker (SEAT) Operations, Procedures, and Safety” regarding all permanent and temporary SEAT bases will have a SEAT Base Operating Plan, and a qualified Single Engine Airtanker Manager (SEMG) or ATBM prior to operations out of the SEAT base airport.
 - Clarified text under subheading “Single Engine Airtanker Manager Position” regarding the SEMG duties and responsibilities are outlined in the *NWCG Standards for Single Engine Airtanker Operations*. The 310-1 lists required training for the SEMG position, ATBM position, and other base support positions. SEMG’s may also refer to the NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO) for base support duties and responsibilities. The SEMG provides supervision and coordination of SEAT base operations and base support personnel. The SEMG may report to the local Aviation Manager, Incident Aviation Manager, or ATBM if applicable. SEMG’s assist in ensuring adherence to contract regulations, safety and policy requirements, and fiscal accountability.
- Clarified FS-specific text under heading “Helicopters” regarding there will be NO on-board mixing of wildland fire chemicals on Forest Service-owned, contracted, chartered or leased aircraft. Use of water enhancers in large dip tanks or pumpkin tanks is not recommended, unless the Qualified Product List (QPL) approved mix ratio can be maintained with the constantly changing water/gel mixture and ratio during operations. The ability to maintain the QPL mix ratio is highly unlikely.

Chapter 17 – Fuels Management

- Removed BLM-specific text under heading “Policy” from refer to FA IM 2015-003 and inserted reference BLM Fuels Management Manual 9214 and Handbook 9214-1, Chapter 5.

Chapter 18 – Reviews and Investigations

- Under heading “Reviews”:
 - Changed bullet and text in “Review Types and Requirements” table from “Aviation Safety and Assistance Team Reviews” to “Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team Reviews.”
 - Inserted new bullet and text in “Review Types and Requirements” table regarding “Notice of Air Quality Exceedance (NOV) Reviews.”
 - Changed subheading from “Aviation Safety and Assistance Team (ASAT) Reviews” to “Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT) Reviews.”
 - Inserted FS-specific bullet under subheading “Lessons Learned Reviews (LLRs)” regarding Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) may be used for incidents meeting the AI criteria or if a CRP is not being utilized for an incident meeting SAI criteria. A guide to the FLA process is available at http://bit.ly/FLA_guide. The Forest Service’s formal Learning Review Processes are the Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) which may be used for unintended outcomes of all types and the Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) reserved for FS employee fatality events. Both processes are explicitly non-punitive and must have a delegation signed by a line officer so stating. Where appropriate, and for less serious incidents the FS may also use the Rapid Lesson Sharing (RLS) process or other review process such as After Action Reviews which typically do not have a Line Officer’s delegation. The FS does not use the SAI process but may assist other agencies in a SAI for incidents involving the FS interests or personnel. FS Aviation accidents and incidents utilize the FS Aviation Mishap Investigation process. Current versions of the FLA and CRP guides can be found on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center’s website (<https://www.wildfirelessons.net/home>).
 - Removed BLM-specific text under subheading “Declared Wildfire Reviews” regarding refer to FA IM-2014-001 and inserted refer to Fuels Management Manual 9214 and Handbook 9214-1, Chapter 5.
 - Inserted new subheading “Notice of Air Quality Exceedance (NOV) Reviews” and associated text.
- Clarified FS-specific text under heading “Investigations,” table “Investigation Types and Requirements,” row “Serious Wildland Fire Accident,” column “Investigation Type” regarding Serious Accident Investigation (SAI) that the FS uses the Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) process or the Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) for FS employee fatality events.
- Removed FS-specific text under heading “Wildland Fire Serious Accident Investigation (SAI) Process” and inserted the Forest Service’s response to serious accidents are the Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) which may be used for unintended outcomes of all types, and the Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) reserved for FS employee fatality events. Both processes are explicitly non-punitive and must have a delegation signed by a line officer so stating. FS Aviation accidents and incidents utilize the FS Aviation Mishap Investigation process. Current versions of the FLA and CRP guides can be found on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center’s website.
- Inserted text under subheading “SAI 24- and 72-Hour Reports” regarding the final 24-hour report will be approved by the Agency Administrator in concurrence with the SAI delegating official.
- Inserted FS-specific text under heading “Wildland Fire Accident Investigation (AI) Process” regarding the Wildland Fire Accident Investigation (AI) Process is not applicable to Forest Service accidents. The Forest Service’s formal Learning Review Processes are the Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) which may be used for unintended outcomes of all types and the Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) reserved for FS employee fatality events. Both processes are explicitly non-punitive and must have a delegation signed by a line officer so stating. Where appropriate, and for less serious incidents the FS may also use the Rapid Lesson Sharing (RLS) process or other review process such as After Action Reviews which typically do not have a Line Officer’s delegation. The FS does not use the SAI process but may assist other agencies in a SAI for incidents involving the FS interests or personnel. FS Aviation accidents and incidents utilize the FS Aviation Mishap Investigation process.

Chapter 19 – Dispatch and Coordination System

- Under heading “National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Functional Responsibilities,” bullet “Management of National Aviation Resources,” inserted national resources include: Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), Smokejumpers, Smokejumper aircraft, Water Scoopers and Federally contracted exclusive use and CWN UAS.
- Under heading “Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Functional Responsibilities”:
 - Clarified that each GACC Manager will be responsible for managing the daily operation of the GACC and for resource allocations within their GA. Resource allocation will be in alignment with their GA MAC and NMAC. The GACC Manager may identify an additional point-of-contact (POC) in the form of coordinator-on-duty (COD), Duty Officer and/or Duty Chief.
 - Under bullet “Management of Aviation Resources,” inserted text regarding GACCs have established procedures for ordering agency-approved IR Mapping Aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and procedures for reporting drone intrusions.
 - Under bullets “Predictive Services” and “Intelligence,” inserted text regarding GACC and/or Predictive Services Managers will provide supervision responsibilities.
- Inserted text under heading “Local Dispatch Center Functional Responsibilities,” bullet “Aviation” regarding each dispatch center will have documented procedures established for ordering agency-approved IR Mapping Aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and procedures for reporting drone intrusions.

Appendices

- Appendix D
 - Changed subheading from “Overview for ALL Team Members” to “Breakout Groups.”
 - Removed “Zone and General” table and consolidated information.
- Appendix E
 - Under block “C2. Incident Strategies (Course of Action),” removed text regarding “exposure” and inserted “risk.”
- Appendix M
 - Removed heading “NUS Engines” and associated tables and text, and inserted “Area Command (AC) Complexity Assessment.”
- Appendix N
 - Clarified text under heading “Fire Behavior Analysis” regarding if a local FBS is not available to provide analysis for an active incident, you can request assistance by one of the following options: selecting Fire Behavior Request from the Information tab of an Incident and submitting the request (GAE’s are monitoring these requests for their units), contacting a Geographic Area Editor directly, or calling the Analysis & Decision Content Support number listed on the WFDSS home page (208-473-8107).
- Appendix O
 - Moved “Area Command (AC) Complexity Assessment” to Appendix M and inserted “Work Capacity Test Record (internet only).”
- Appendix P
 - Under heading “Dispatch Center Local Mobilization Guide/Dispatch Operating Plan”:
 - Removed text under bullet “Fire Danger” regarding procedures for update and posting of monthly the seasonal trends of those values versus seasonal averages.
 - Inserted text under bullet “Aviation” regarding access to FLIP/AP1B and aviation sectional charts.
 - Under heading “Required Reference Materials”:
 - Removed reference Aircraft Identification Guide and inserted aircraft identification/recognition/capability guide.
 - Inserted text regarding AP1B/FLIP access.
 - Inserted text regarding Fire Danger Operating Plan or other preparedness operating plan as required by agency.
 - Inserted text regarding current Fire Danger PocketCards or Seasonal Trend Analysis as required by agency.

2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- Inserted text regarding pre-season contact must be made to obtain contract information for the Interagency Call When Needed Helicopter Contract, the National Food Service Contract and the National Shower Facilities Contract since it is no longer accessible on the USFS website. For copies of contracts, contact U.S. Forest Service Contracting at NIFC.
- Appendix Q
 - Removed appendix. Moved “Work Capacity Test Record” (internet only) to Appendix O.