Prevention and Management of COVID-19 During Wildland Fire Operations

Keep yourself and your peers safe by practicing these measures whenever possible

**Practice Social/Physical Distancing**

- Do not gather in groups or shake hands.
- Hold necessary meetings outside and maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
- Use radios, remote units, and virtual technology for communications as much as possible.
- Establish smaller spike camps to insulate crews/modules from each other and outside personnel and resources (Module as One).
- Keep newly onboarded crewmembers separate for 2 weeks.
- Create separate spaces in offices and housing and stagger work hours.
- Wear cloth face coverings and practice hand hygiene when riding in vehicles or coming into contact with outside resources, personnel, or the general public.

**Clean and Disinfect**

- Clean and disinfect shared areas and high touch surfaces in workplaces, vehicles, and housing at regular intervals.
- Use appropriate PPE and follow product label instructions when cleaning and disinfecting.
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding without appropriately sanitizing them.
- Minimize equipment sharing, disinfect equipment, and wash/sanitize hands before and after use.
Maintain a Healthy Workforce

• Monitor your own health and maintain awareness of symptoms.
• Prioritize rest, proper hydration, and nutrition to reduce cumulative fatigue.
• Practice rigorous sanitation and personal hygiene, including covering coughs and sneezes and washing/sanitizing hands.
• Conduct symptom screening, including temperature checks, at duty stations or on incidents.
• Mitigate smoke exposure whenever possible.
• Assign at-risk individuals to duties that reduce their potential for contracting the illness.

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

• Separate sick individuals; provide a separate bedroom, bathroom, and essential supplies.
• Sick individuals must wear a face mask or cloth covering over their nose and mouth and maintain a 6-foot distance.
• Seek immediate medical attention if someone develops emergency warning signs for COVID-19.
• Only discontinue isolation after meeting CDC criteria.

Understand Different Face Coverings

• Cloth face coverings over the mouth and nose are not PPE and should be washed with soap and water after each use.
• Disposable face and surgical masks covering the mouth and nose are not PPE and should be discarded after one use.
• N95 filtering facepiece respirators are PPE and have a close facial fit and efficient filtration of airborne particles.

Other Resources