CLEARANCE FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING MEDICAL STANDARDS PROGRAM IN RELATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT PARK RANGERS AND STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTERS

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)
If a commissioned law enforcement (LE) park ranger is also assigned arduous wildland firefighter duties, an **additional medical clearance** for wildland firefighting must be requested at the time of his/her LE medical exam (either during the pre-placement Baseline exam, or the Periodic exam required every 3 years).

CAS ORDERING FOR LE
Parks have designated employees approved to gain access to the Client Access System (CAS) database to request and monitor LE medicals. This person is referred to as the CAS Administrator and could be the Chief Ranger or an HR Specialist within the SHRO. At the time the exam request is initiated in the system the CAS Administrator must check the box for “Wildland Fire Clearance” along with the exam type (Baseline or Periodic) in order for the Agency Medical Review Officer (MRO) to review the results of the exam against both the LE Medical Standards **AND** the Wildland Fire Medical Standards. If “Wildland Fire Clearance” is not requested at this time, then the MRO will not make a medical clearance determination for wildland fire activities. If this occurs, a separate review for this clearance will need to be requested at a later time, after the LE exam process has already been completed. This may cause significant delays to the wildland firefighter medical clearance process.

LE FINAL CLEARANCE
Once the exam is completed and a final medical determination is made, the results (qualified or not qualified) will be posted in the database for the CAS Administrator to print and keep in the employee’s Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) and commission file at the park. The SHRO will upload the clearance page into the employee’s eOPF. The fire management officer (FMO) must also obtain a copy of the rating form for documentation of qualified status for wildland fire in the employee’s incident qualifications and certification system (IQCS) hard copy records. LE Rangers whose exam periodicity does not require them to have an exam this year should provide documentation that they are current and cleared to the FMO. FMOs are encouraged to obtain an email from the LE CAS administrator, prior to the date of the work capacity test, with the names of the LE officers taking the test and confirmation that they are current on their LE physicals AND cleared for wildland fire. An LE who is cleared only for LE is not qualified for arduous duty wildland fire.

LE MEDICAL EXAMS
**LE medical exams differ from wildland fire.** Conditions that may not disqualify an LE from performing their LE duties may cause them to not be cleared for wildland fire fighter (WLFF) duties. LE must meet the same standards as WLFF’s if they want to perform in an arduous capacity for wildland fire. If an LE does not clear the WLFF standards they must complete the WLFF Risk Mitigation or Medical Waiver process working with their local Fire Management Officer and SHRO to complete the process.

The standalone LE exam, issued every three years, qualifies the individual for the light/moderate work capacity test. No online HSQ is to be administered in the years between exams to LE.

STRUCTURE FIRE EXAMS
The structure fire exam is the same process as the wildland fire medical exam with the addition of a structure fire determination. The structural side must also answer additional respirator questions. Each exam gets reviewed against the standards for which they are seeking qualification (structural or wildland) similar to the LE process.
STRUCTURE FIRE FINAL CLEARANCE
Structure firefighters who do not clear for arduous level wildland fire will follow the wildland fire risk mitigation/waiver process for ultimate wildland fire determination. Each individual who receives an arduous duty exam, with structure fire determination, will electronically receive documentation (determination letter) from CHS/CAS stating they are medically qualified to take the Work Capacity Test. This documentation will also go to the AHJ or structural fire coordinator for the park. Only allow those individuals who either have the certificate or determination letter to take a Work Capacity Test.

FMOs with questions regarding clearance status of a structure firefighter for arduous work capacity testing should contact Michael Schell at michael_schell@nps.gov or via phone (208) 387-5786. Structure firefighters should also contact him for scheduling exams.