

## Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program

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To: DOI Fire Directors

From: L. Kaili McCray, DOI Medical Standards Program Manager *LM*

Date: 9/21/2016

Subject: Fire Season 2017 DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program Process

The following guidance pertains to the DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program (DOI MSP) phased implementation process including: DOI fire units who completed phase I and II of the contracted exam process in 2015 or 2016; selected phase III units and all remaining units implementing next fire season 2017, selectees are listed here:

[http://www.nifc.gov/medical\\_standards/Program/index.html](http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/Program/index.html); and BLM Administratively Determined/ Emergency Firefighters (AD/EFFs) located in Alaska.



### **Phase I and II Groups**

All new arduous personnel should continue to complete exams through Comprehensive Health Services Inc. (CHSi) prior to taking the Work Capacity Test (WCT) for fire season 2017. All arduous personnel who completed an exam in 2015 or 2016 through CHSi and received a *Medically Qualified* determination; or a *Qualified with Risk Mitigation Waiver* from their agency must complete the DOI MSP Self-Certification Process prior to taking the WCT. The Self-Certification process will be available through the CHSi Employee Access System (EAS) beginning **9/30/2016**. By default the Firefighter due for self-certification and the CAS user originally listed will be notified at 60, 30 and 15 days prior to the anniversary of the last exam. CAS and EAS users will be prompted to update contact information as appropriate. Results of completed self-certifications will be printable through EAS and should be used as verification of medical qualification at the WCT. Self-certification results will also be viewable by Management in CAS. Applicants no longer meeting one or more of the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards will continue to have an opportunity to participate in the Risk Mitigation/Waiver (RM/W) Process. The Servicing Human Resource Officer, Specialist or Employee Relations Specialist will initiate the RM/W process unless the applicant is an AD/EFF. The RM/W process for AD/EFFs is initiated and facilitated by the local Fire Management Official.



### **Phase III Implementation Group**

All arduous wildland firefighters who have not completed a comprehensive exam with CHSi in 2015 or 2016 are required to take a medical exam through CHSi and medically qualify under the *Federal Interagency Wildland Fire Medical Standards* as an applicant. Once hired, medical qualification becomes a condition of employment and an exam is performed every three years. Self-certification of medical qualification occurs in the years between exams. Current periodicity for Phase III participants will start over when phasing into the contracted exam process. The RM/W Process as described above is available for applicants not meeting



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one or more of the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards. Existing waivers or waivers with restrictions remain valid unless there is a change in medical condition. For detailed information on the DOI MSP and RM/W Process and what to expect next for phased implementation, please visit: [http://www.nifc.gov/medical\\_standards](http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards)

### **BLM AD/EFFs in Alaska**

The DOI MSP and BLM are committed to establishing the proper foundation to support successful implementation of AD/EFFs in Alaska. As such, Alaska AD/EFFs will be included in Phase IV of the program in Fiscal Year 2018 rather than in Phase III. This change will allow the DOI MSP to fully meet the challenges of implementation in Alaska. The safety and health of BLM AD/EFFs in Alaska remains priority and BLM AD/EFFs will still be required to complete a Health Screening Questionnaire; and with any yes answers, complete a medical exam prior to taking the WCT. Specific Bureau guidance will be located here:

[https://www.nifc.gov/medical\\_standards/Contact-Us/index.html](https://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/Contact-Us/index.html)

Please continue to monitor the DOI MSP website for further updates or contact the DOI MSP Office at (888) 286-2521 (e-mail: [wlfcsr@blm.gov](mailto:wlfcsr@blm.gov)) if you have questions.