

Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program



To: DOI Fire Directors

From: DOI MSP Oversight Group
Tamara Neukam, BLM Human Resources Officer
John Segar, FWS Fire Director
Chad Fisher, NPS Wildland Fire Safety Program Manager

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Subject: DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards



The following information is an update from the Department of the Interior, Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program (DOI MSP) Oversight Group.

The program is working diligently to establish a contract to help carry-out the program by fire season 2015. The future contract will provide examinations for employees on a three-year periodicity with the appropriate clinic infrastructure; provide medical records storage and management; and have clearance status tracking and exam trending capabilities. Some additional planned program changes include discontinued use of the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) for arduous duty clearance and using a medical exam for all Administratively Determined and Emergency Firefighters (AD/EFFs). While this work is taking place, the examination processes for Fire Season 2014 will remain the same. All pertinent program guidance for fire season 2014 is provided below:



1. **Three-year exam periodicity.** All arduous duty wildland firefighters, excluding AD/EFFs <45, who have not had a DOI Wildland firefighter medical exam on or after January 1, 2011 must have an exam.
2. **The Exam Matrix has been updated.** This update supersedes any previous versions and ensures all New Permanent Employees (PFT, Career Seasonal, Term, Pathways Interns); those disclosing health issues on the HSQ; and those incumbents who have not had an exam in the last three calendar years successfully complete an exam as a condition of hire or condition of performing arduous duty wildland fire management activities.
3. **The exam packet is available for use.** Employees who need an exam based on the matrix or answers to the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) may download the exam packet from the DOI MSP website found at http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/. Agency Officials should stress in their memos that the HSQ and exam questionnaire forms are legal documents. Falsification and/or withholding of information could lead to rescinding tentative job offers and/or termination of employment. Guidance on how to use



the exam form can be found on the exam document itself. Employees should return the completed exam to their Servicing Human Resource Officer (SHRO). They should then provide the FMO a copy of the Clearance Page **ONLY** if their status is Cleared. If the status is Not Cleared the SHRO should contact DOI MSP Customer Service and initiate the Risk Mitigation/Waiver process.

4. **The HSQ is available on the DOI MSP website.** The HSQ form can be downloaded from the DOI MSP New Exam Process link at http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/Links/index.html.
5. **Each agency will provide updated guidance relating to payment for medical exams.**
6. **The major components of the DOI MSP process remain in effect.** The exam process and Risk Mitigation/Waiver process remain in place. Details can be found on the DOI MSP website.

Employees currently in a “Not Cleared” status may also submit further medical information for the DOI Medical Review Officer (MRO) consideration at any time by contacting the DOI MSP Customer Service Representative. They may not use the Health Screening Questionnaire to circumvent their Not Cleared status. Similarly, if they previously pursued a waiver or risk mitigation (or waiver with restrictions) and were denied, they may submit further medical information for MRO review. However, they may not directly pursue a waiver or risk mitigation for the same condition without new information on their medical condition first being considered by the MRO.

If the requesting agency representative has concerns or questions about the clinicians’ performance with regard to Part C or D on the DOI MSP Exam, a MRO review should be requested through the DOI MSP. All exams are subject to a Medical Review by the DOI MSP which could potentially change the examinees’ clearance status.

Additional medical tests are not authorized. If an examining clinician recommends further tests to determine firefighter medical clearance, prior agency approval is required. Additional testing or treatment requested by the employee/applicant shall be at their own expense.

Questions regarding the DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program may be directed to the DOI MSP Customer Service at wlfcsr@blm.gov or 1-888-286-2521 or your respective agency’s Wildland Fire Safety Program Manager. The DOI MSP website will continue to be your best source for current information, job aids, and process direction.

Attachment