



**TO :**  
**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov  
**DATE :** 07/15/2009  
**SUBJECT :** SAFETY ADVISORY : NWCG#020-2009 Memorandum -- Interim Influenza Guidelines for Wildland Fire Responses

---

**TO:** NWCG EXECUTIVE BOARD

**WHAT:** NWCG#020-2009 Memorandum -- Interim Influenza Guidelines for Wildland Fire Responses

**ACTION:** Please review and distribute .

**Note:** Memorandum is dated 6/24/09. The Memorandum was not sent out until all documents mentioned in the Memorandum were in place on the NWCG website .



NWCG#020-2009\_Memorandum\_Interim Influenza Guidelines\_2009\_06\_24.pdf

\*\*\*\*\*

Bonnie L. Bradshaw  
NWCG Executive Secretary  
National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, ID 83705-5354  
(208) 387-5823  
Fax: (208) 387-5398  
NWCG\_Executive\_Secretary@nifc.blm.gov

---



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

## MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#020-2009

To: NWCG Executive Board

From: NWCG Chair *Brian McManis*

Date: June 24, 2009

Subject: Interim Influenza Guidelines for Wildland Fire Responses

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) and Department of the Interior (DOI) in coordination with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and Incident Emergency Medical Task Group (IEMTG) are working together to update *The Avian and Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan for the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies*. In the interim, the NWCG is distributing this plan as guidance to Incident Management Teams (IMT) for dealing with the current influenza situation.

Home units should not mobilize personnel who have flu symptoms. IMTs should be trained and practiced in the correct use of PPE (personal protective equipment) and know what measures are necessary if an influenza outbreak occurs.

This plan provides information and guidance to help fire personnel take appropriate actions to mitigate their risk of influenza exposure, and general health and safety measures for fire camps as well as recommendations for Medical Unit Leaders and Medical First Responders.

Timely response and the use of accepted practices, including using the appropriate PPE and assessing all firefighting resources prior to mobilization, will help reduce the number of cases and could keep incident personnel safe and healthy. These interim guidelines can also be found on the following website: <http://www.nwcg.gov/influenza-guidelines/index.html>

Attachment: Interim Influenza Guidelines for Wildland Fire Responses