



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

**National Interagency Fire Center
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March 22, 2004

To: NWCG Members
From: Chair, NWCG /s/ J L Stires
Subject: Qualification Standards During Initial Action

There appears to be varying interpretations within the federal agencies regarding the application of 310-1 qualification/certification standards to local, non-federal resources, particularly during initial action. The following points summarize NWCG policy.

- The 310-1 qualification/certification standards are mandatory only for national mobilization of wildland fire fighting resources.
- During initial action, all agencies (federal, state, local and tribal) accept each other's standards. Once jurisdiction is clearly established, then the standards of the agency(s) with jurisdiction prevail.
- Prior to the fire season, federal agencies should meet with their state, local and tribal agency partners and jointly determine the qualification/certification standards that will apply to the use of local, non-federal firefighters during initial action on fires on lands under the jurisdiction of a federal agency.
- The Geographic Area Coordinating Group should determine the application of 310-1 qualification/certification standards for mobilization within the geographic area.
- On fire where a non-federal agency is also an agency with legal jurisdiction, the standards of that agency apply.