

Hazard Abatement Plan - Thirtymile Fire

Enclosure # 9

FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
Washington, D.C.

FSH 5109.17 - FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT
QUALIFICATIONS HANDBOOK

Amendment No. 5109.17-2000-2

Effective May 18, 2000

POSTING NOTICE. Amendments are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document name. Remove entire document and replace with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page of this document. The last amendment to this Handbook was Amendment 5109.17-2000-1 to FSH 5109.17,20 Contents.

This amendment supersedes Amendment 5109.17-92-2 and Amendment 5109.17-91-3 to chapter 20.

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Digest:

This amendment changes the Handbook title to "Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook" (formerly, "Wildland Fire Qualifications Handbook") and revises terms throughout the chapter to change to "management" (formerly "suppression") in referring to fire use and "Incident Qualification Card" (formerly "Redcard").

20.6 - Provides direction on Forest Service instructor qualifications and certification.

20.62 - Adds direction on National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group instructor levels.

Digest--Continued:

20.63 - Adds requirements for certified instructors.

21 - Modifies terminology to the correct PMS 310-1 position titles; adds a description of the performance-based qualification system; and provides direction for personnel to achieve skills through identified equivalent courses. Removes direction for an individual to be certified without attending training and gaining experience.

21.1 - Modifies terminology from "manager" to "Line Officer or designated official." Redefines incident complexity typing levels to include 1 through 5. Makes minor editorial changes throughout the section.

21.2 - Provides guidelines to assist the line officer or designated official in determining incident complexity.

22 - Defines Fire Qualification Review Committee (FQRC) requirements and participating members.

22.04 - Sets out the responsibility for signing Incident Qualification Cards.

22.2 - Describes Position Task Books, defines the total number of allowable active task books, and defines the minimum number of qualified assignments an Evaluator must have prior to performing as an Evaluator.

22.3 - Sets out the process for determining equivalency courses.

22.4 - Adds a 3-year currency requirement for Expanded Dispatch positions. Sets out annual refresher requirements.

22.5 - Describes the recertification process.

23.1 - Provides examples of positions for each physical fitness requirement.

23.2 - Limits the establishment of physical fitness measurement methods to the Chief.

23.3 - Provides direction on providing official time to employees for fitness development, with the work supervisor's approval, when the employee's position has a physical fitness requirement of arduous.

Digest--Continued:

24 - Changes the caption to Position Categories (formerly, "Skill Positions").

25 - 25.36 - Sets out the three-tiered level of training and describes course designations: I, S, RX, D, P. Adds position qualification for all position categories set out in the exhibits to sections 25.11-25.36.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

22 - CERTIFICATION FOR INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM POSITIONS. All regular Forest Service personnel and cooperators employed by the Forest Service under the Pay Plan for Emergency Workers (Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, PMS 902-1, FSH 5109.34) and assigned Incident Command System (ICS) positions must be judged to be technically and physically qualified to fill their positions.

Qualification for a position in the NIIMS/ICS organization depends on proven ability (sec. 21). Training, experience, and physical fitness are prerequisites for qualification. However, certification to hold an ICS position is determined through evaluation of performance as a trainee in the target position (if required), or in a prerequisite assignment.

To become certified in a position, a Forest Service employee will need to successfully perform in a minimum of two assignments in the position prior to consideration as a trainee for the next higher position.

A Fire Qualification Review Committee shall be established on each unit to determine certification of personnel. At a minimum, the committee shall include the Fire Program Manager, a line officer representative, Incident Fire Qualifications Database Administrator, and representatives knowledgeable of the unit's personnel. The Fire Program Manager on the unit should ensure that a system is in place to establish priorities for training and currency assignments.

Each employee's ICS position qualifications (including physical fitness and experience) must be re-evaluated annually and a new certification must be issued.

22.04 - Responsibility for Signing Incident Qualification Cards.

1. The Regional Forester may delegate authority to sign Incident Qualification Cards to the Director of Aviation and Fire Management for all Area Command, Type I Command, and General Staff positions.

2. The Forest Supervisors may delegate signing authority to Fire Staffs for Type 2 Command and General Staff positions. Cards for other positions should be signed by the Unit Fire Staff.

3. The District Ranger may sign Incident Qualification Cards for temporary employees qualified as Firefighter 1 and 2. Certification and documentation requirements must be met prior to signature.

22.1 - Certification Records. The Fire Program Manager on each unit shall ensure that certification records are maintained and shall issue an Incident Qualification Card annually to each currently certified individual. The card contains the individual's name, Social Security number, agency, year, unit, qualified positions, on-the-job training needs, measured physical fitness, other skills, and clarifying remarks.