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## Chapter 09

### Fire Management Planning & Response

#### Policy

Planning: Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP). FMPs are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the areas approved Land and/or Resource Management Plans (L/RMP). FMPs must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations. For DOI agencies, FMPs also define fuel management programs and priorities. (*2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*).

#### Operational Use of Fire Management Plans

Fire organizations responding to wildland fires must utilize the direction in the FMP to guide the fire management response

#### Concepts and Definitions

##### Land/Resource Management Plan

A document prepared with public participation and approved by the agency administrator that provides general guidance and direction for land and resource management activities for an administrative area. The L/RMP identifies the need for fire's role in a particular area and for a specific benefit. The objectives in the L/RMP provide the basis for the development of fire management objectives and the fire management program in the designated area. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)

##### Fire Management Plan

The FMP will identify and integrate all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of the approved L/RMP. It defines a program to manage wildland fires (wildfire, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use). The plan is supplemented by operations plans, including but not limited to preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire burn plans, and prevention plans. FMPs assure that wildland fire management goals and components are coordinated. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)

##### Purpose

The fire management planning process and requirements may differ among agencies. However, for all agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service), a common purpose of a FMP is to provide decision support to aid

1 managers in making informed decisions on the appropriate management  
2 response (AMR). The FMP includes a concise summary of information  
3 organized by fire management unit (FMU) or units.

4  
5 In addition, for the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies, the FMP contains  
6 strategic and operational elements that describe how to manage applicable fire  
7 program components such as: response to unplanned ignitions, hazardous fuels  
8 and vegetation management, burned area emergency stabilization and  
9 rehabilitation, prevention, community interactions and collaborative partnerships  
10 roles, and monitoring and evaluation programs. The Forest Service will have  
11 related information in separate fire management reference documents.

12  
13 Each FMP will evolve over time as new information becomes available,  
14 conditions change on the ground and changes are made to L/RMP. (*Interagency  
15 Fire Management Planning Template, 2007*)

#### 16 **Fire Management Unit**

17 The primary purpose of developing Fire Management Units (FMU)s in fire  
18 management planning is to assist in organizing information in complex  
19 landscapes. The process of creating FMUs divides the landscape into smaller  
20 geographic areas to more easily describe physical/biological/social  
21 characteristics and frame associated planning guidance based on these  
22 characteristics. If possible, FMUs should be developed through interagency  
23 efforts and interactions to facilitate common fire management across boundaries.  
24 (*Interagency Fire Management Plan Template, September, 2007*)

25  
26  
27 An FMU can be any land management area definable by objectives,  
28 management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected,  
29 political boundaries, fuel types, major fire regime groups, and so on, that set it  
30 apart from the management characteristics of an adjacent FMU. The FMU may  
31 have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to  
32 accomplish these objectives. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of  
33 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)

#### 34 **Wildland Fire**

35 Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of  
36 wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire, wildland fire use, and  
37 prescribed fire. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal  
38 Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)

- 39 • **Wildfire** - An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including unauthorized  
40 human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed  
41 fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the  
42 fire out. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland  
43 Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)

- 1 • **Prescribed Fire** - Any fire ignited by management action to meet specific  
2 objectives. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal*  
3 *Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003*)
- 4 • **Wildland Fire Use (WFU)** - The application of the appropriate  
5 management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish  
6 specific resource management objectives in predefined designated areas  
7 outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described  
8 in the wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP). (*Interagency Strategy for*  
9 *the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June*  
10 *2003*)

11

### 12 **Appropriate Management Response**

13 Any specific action suitable to meet FMU objectives. Typically, the AMR  
14 ranges across a spectrum of tactical operations (from monitoring to intensive  
15 management actions). The AMR is developed by using FMU strategies and  
16 objectives identified in the FMP. (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation*  
17 *of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003, p. 17*). AMR  
18 encompasses all the response actions necessary to manage a wildfire or wildland  
19 fire use event for the duration of the event. In implementing the AMR, the full  
20 spectrum of tactical options, from monitoring a fire at a distance to intensive  
21 suppression actions are available to the fire manager. Beginning with the initial  
22 response to any wildland fire, decisions will reflect the goal of using available  
23 firefighting resources to manage the fire for the most effective, most efficient  
24 and safest means available. The AMR strategies and tactics used to manage a  
25 wildland fire will be based on objectives identified in the L/RMP and/or FMP.  
26 (*NFAEB Memo, June 20, 2007*)

27

### 28 **Initial Action**

29 The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire. Initial actions may  
30 be size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding actions, or aggressive initial attack  
31 (*NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, January 2005*)

32

### 33 **Initial Attack**

34 A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential behavior. The  
35 objective of initial attack is to stop the spread of the fire and put it out at least  
36 cost. An aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public  
37 safety and values to be protected. (*NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire*  
38 *Terminology, January 2005*)

39

### 40 **Extended Attack**

41 Suppression activity for a wildfire that has not been contained or controlled by  
42 initial attack or contingency forces and for which more firefighting resources are  
43 arriving, en route, or being ordered by the initial attack incident commander.  
44 (*NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, January 2005*)

45

46

**1 Wildfire Suppression**

2 An AMR to wildfire, escaped WFU or prescribed fire that results in curtailment  
3 of fire spread and eliminates all identified threats from the particular fire.  
4 (*NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, January 2005*)

**6 Wildland Fire Management Objectives**

7 Only one management objective will be applied to wildland fire. Wildland fires  
8 will either be managed for resource benefits or suppressed. A wildfire cannot be  
9 managed for resource benefits and suppression concurrently. If two wildland  
10 fires converge they will be managed as a single wildland fire. (*2006 Federal  
11 Fire & Aviation Operations Action Plan*)

12  
13 Human caused Wildland fires will be suppressed in every instance and will not  
14 be managed for resource benefits.

15  
16 Once a Wildland fire has been managed for suppression objectives, it may never  
17 be managed for resource benefit objectives.

**19 Wildland Fire Responses****21 Responding to a Wildland Fire**

22 Response to wildland fires is based on ecological, social, and legal  
23 consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the  
24 likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and  
25 cultural resources and values to be protected, dictate the appropriate response to  
26 the fire. (*Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, January 2001*)

**28 Determining Type of Fire**

29 When a wildland fire is reported, the pre established FMP will determined  
30 whether the wildland fire is designated a wildfire or a wildland fire use fire.  
31 Pre-planned, specific prescription criteria must be established prior to fire  
32 occurrence so that the decision to designate the fire either a wildfire or a  
33 wildland fire use fire is immediate.

**35 Responding to a Wildfire**

36 A wildfire is defined as “an unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including  
37 unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped  
38 prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put  
39 the fire out.” (*Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland  
40 Fire Management Policy, June 2003*). When the objective is to put the fire out,  
41 initial attack suppression is generally the safest and most effective response  
42 option.

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**1 Escaped Initial Attack**

2 A fire has escaped initial attack when:

- 3 • The fire has not been contained by the initial attack resources dispatched to  
4 the fire and there is no estimate of containment or control and;
- 5 • The fire will not have been contained within the initial attack management  
6 objectives established for that zone or area.

**8 Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA)**

9 A WFSA is a decision making process that evaluates alternative wildfire  
10 suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and  
11 economic criteria and provides a record of those decisions. (*Interagency  
12 Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy,  
13 June 2003*). The WFSA process is used when a wildfire escapes initial attack.  
14 This includes prescribed fires and wildland fire use fires that are declared  
15 wildfires. The WFSA is used by the agency administrator or representative to  
16 describe the wildfire situation, compare several strategic wildfire management  
17 alternatives, evaluate the expected effects of the alternatives, establish objectives  
18 and constraints for the management of the fire, select the preferred alternative,  
19 and document the decision. Multi-jurisdictional incidents will require a  
20 collaboratively developed WFSA that is approved and signed by each of the  
21 respective agencies

- 22 • The WFSA program (WFSA Plus Version 6.6) may be found at:  
23 <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa/>.
- 24 • Additional information about the WFSA (as well as the Wildland Fire  
25 Implementation Plan) is located at: <http://www.wildlandfireamr.net>.
- 26 • It is acceptable to use this version. A description of the WFSA Elements  
27 with guidance for the completion can be found in Appendix S.

**29 WFSA Approval**

30 Approval entails selecting the alternative and the associated costs to be  
31 implemented. The local agency administrator must approve the WFSA by  
32 signing all WFSA-related Records of Decision. This responsibility may not be  
33 delegated below the line officer level. If a new WFSA or amended WFSA is  
34 necessary for the incident or complex, a new Approval is necessary. The local  
35 agency administrator retains approval authorities throughout the incident.

- 36 • *FS - District Rangers have authority to develop and approve all WFSAs up  
37 to \$2M. Forest Supervisors have the authority and responsibility to develop  
38 and approve all WFSAs over \$2M, and to certify a WFSA up to \$10M or  
39 with a Type I or Area Command Team activation.*

**41 WFSA Daily Review**

42 It is the responsibility of the local agency administrator to ensure that a daily  
43 review is conducted that documents the strategies and tactics implemented under  
44 the selected WFSA alternative are still valid and that costs are within the  
45 estimated costs associated with that alternative. This review and validation may  
46 be delegated at the discretion of the agency administrator.

**Release Date: January 2009**

**09-5**

1 **WFSA Certification**

2 The Certification signature acknowledges that the appropriate level of agency  
 3 administrator has been notified of anticipated agency-specific expenses for an  
 4 incident or complex. The appropriate certification authority will vary based on  
 5 cost estimates as illustrated in the table below. For multi-jurisdictional incidents,  
 6 each agency's individual cost estimate determines the level of the agency-  
 7 required certification authority. A new Certification by the appropriate authority  
 8 level is required as expenses are recalculated whenever a WFSA is amended or  
 9 if a new WFSA is prepared for the incident.

10

11 **WFSA Certification Requirements, DOI Agencies**

WFSA cost estimate	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS
\$0 - \$2M	Agency Supt.	Field/District Manager	Project Ldr./ Refuge Mgr.	Park Supt.
\$2M - \$5M	Regional Director	State Director	Regional Director	Regional Director
>\$5M	BIA Director	BLM Director	FWS Director	NPS Director

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13 **WFSA Certification Requirements, USDA Forest Service**

WFSA cost estimate	USFS
\$0 - \$2M	District Ranger
\$2M - \$10M	Forest Supervisor
\$10M - \$50M	Regional Forester
>\$50M	Forest Service Chief

14

15 For multi-jurisdictional incidents, each agency's individual cost estimate, not the  
 16 total cost estimate, will determine that agency's certification/approval level.

17

18 **WFSA Certification Checklist**

19 This checklist helps the WFSA certifying authority ensure the accuracy and  
 20 completeness of the WFSA process. Updates to this list may be made and can  
 21 be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa/>

Certification Checklist	Y/N
Are key objectives for fire suppression identified and measurable?	
Are there a minimum of two alternatives (with identifiable differences in strategies and/or outcomes) analyzed, and an extreme case considered?	
Are the values at risk adequately displayed and analyzed?	
Do the alternatives have safety issues well documented and risk mitigation identified where needed?	

Is the rationale for the selected alternative, whether or not most cost effective, compelling?	
Were cost estimates derived with current data, are they relevant for this incident, and documented?	
Are the assigned probabilities for success in line with the current and expected situation and documented?	
Are critical resources listed and available to implement alternatives?	
Was the estimated suppression cost used for identifying the certifying official.	
Have managers/owners of adjoining jurisdictions agreed to the selected strategy if it encompasses non-agency lands.	

1

2 **Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Tools** - Modeling tools are  
 3 available to assist fire managers and agency administrators in decisions  
 4 regarding strategies and tactics.

5

6 **Responding to a Wildland Fire Use Event**

7 When the wildland fire is determined to be a wildland fire use event, the  
 8 required action is “the application of the appropriate management response to  
 9 naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management  
 10 objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in the FMP”. Operational  
 11 management is described in the wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP).  
 12 *(Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire*  
 13 *Management Policy, June 2003)*

14

15 **Wildland Fire Implementation Plan**

16 A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) is a progressively developed  
 17 assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and  
 18 describes the AMR for a wildland fire use activity. The WFIP is a plan that  
 19 guides the management of a WFU fire. An approved FMP is required in all  
 20 cases. The FMP identifies specific resource and fire management objectives, a  
 21 predefined geographic area, and specific, required prescription criteria that must  
 22 be met prior to designating a wildland fire for fire use. The WFIP is continually  
 23 evaluated and tested to ensure that the objectives of the WFU fire are being met.  
 24 If the objectives are not being met, mitigation actions identified in the WFIP are  
 25 implemented. Mitigation actions are not presented formally as a distinct plan,  
 26 but are integrated throughout the short term (WFIP Stage 2) and long term  
 27 (WFIP Stage 3) implementation actions. If the combined set of mitigation  
 28 actions is not meeting objectives, the WFU fire is converted to a wildfire,  
 29 suppression action is taken and a WFSA is prepared. If the mitigation actions  
 30 are successful in keeping the WFU fire within the parameters of the WFIP, the  
 31 fire continues to be managed as a WFU fire.

32

- 1 A WFIP will be completed for all naturally ignited wildland fires that are  
 2 managed for resource benefit. It is an operational plan for assessing, analyzing,  
 3 and selecting strategies for wildland fire use. It is progressively developed and  
 4 documents appropriate management responses for any wildland fire managed  
 5 for resource benefits. The plan will be completed in compliance with the  
 6 guidance found in the *Wildland Fire Use, Implementation Procedures Reference*  
 7 *Guide*, May 2005 (May 2007 revision).
- 8 A WFIP consists of three distinct stages:
- 9 • **Stage I** - The initial fire assessment, or size-up, is the preliminary  
 10 information gathering stage. It compares current information to established  
 11 prescription criteria found in the FMP. This is an initial decision making  
 12 tool which assists managers in classifying fires for resource benefit or  
 13 suppression actions. Components include: strategic fire size-up, decision  
 14 criteria checklist, management actions, and periodic fire assessment.
  - 15 • **Stage II** - Defines management actions required in response to a changing  
 16 fire situation as indicated by monitoring information and the periodic fire  
 17 assessment from stage I. This stage is used to manage larger, more active  
 18 fires with greater potential for geographic extent than stage I. Components  
 19 include: objectives, fire situation, management actions, estimated costs, and  
 20 periodic fire assessment.
  - 21 • **Stage III** - Defines management actions required in response to an  
 22 escalating fire situation, potential long duration, and increased need for  
 23 management activity, as indicated by the periodic assessment completed in  
 24 stage II. Components include: objectives and risk assessment  
 25 considerations, maximum manageable area definition and maps, weather  
 26 conditions and drought prognosis, long-term risk assessment, threats,  
 27 monitoring actions, mitigation actions, resources needed to manage the fire,  
 28 contingency actions, information plan, estimated costs, post-burn  
 29 evaluation, signatures and date, and periodic fire assessment.

WFIP Completion Timeframes	
WFIP Stage	Maximum Completion Timeframe
Stage I	8 hours after confirmed fire detection and Strategic Fire Size-Up.
Stage II	48 hours after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment.
Stage III	7 days after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment
Periodic Fire Assessment	As part of all stages and on assigned frequency thereafter.

- 30 • *NPS - Wildland Fire Use Program Oversight. Regional office fire*  
 31 *management officers are responsible for appraising and surveying all*  
 32 *wildland fire use activities within their region. The regional office fire staff*  
 33 *will review implementation plans for fires with a Complex Rating. Direct*  
 34 *contact with parks may be necessary in order to stay apprised of complex*  
 35 *situations. On rare occasions, circumstances or situations may exist which*



- 1        *require the regional director to intervene in the wildland fire use decision*  
2        *process.*  
3        • *NPS - Review by the regional fire management officer or acting is*  
4        *mandatory for Wildland Fire Implementation Plans with a projected cost of*  
5        *greater than \$500,000. Review by the NPS National Fire Management*  
6        *Officer at NIFC, or Acting, is mandatory for Wildland Fire Implementation*  
7        *Plans with a projected cost of greater than \$1,000,000.*

8

### 9 **Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response**

10

#### 11 **Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response-Wildland Urban Interface**

12 The operational roles of the federal agencies as a partner in the Wildland Urban  
13 Interface are wildland firefighting, hazard reduction, cooperative prevention and  
14 education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the  
15 responsibility of tribal, state or local governments. Federal agencies may assist  
16 with exterior structural fire protection activities under formal fire protection  
17 agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including  
18 funding. (Some federal agencies have full structural protection authority for  
19 their facilities on lands they administer and may also enter into formal  
20 agreements to assist state and local governments with structural protection.)  
21 *2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, page 23.*

22

23 Although funding is not provided to prepare for or respond to emergency non-  
24 wildland fire response activities such as structure fires, vehicle fires, dump fires,  
25 hazardous materials releases, and emergency medical responses, managers must  
26 ensure that fire management plans, interagency agreements, and annual  
27 operating plans clearly state agency and cooperator roles and responsibilities for  
28 non-wildland fire response activities that agency personnel are exposed to as a  
29 result of working in the wildland urban interface environment.

30

#### 31 **Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response-Management Controls to Mitigate** 32 **Exposure**

33 Agency safety and health policy states that PPE devices will be used only when  
34 equipment guards, engineering controls, or management control does not  
35 adequately protect employees. To meet this requirement:

- 36 • Managers and supervisors will not knowingly place wildland firefighters in  
37 positions where exposure to toxic gases or chemicals would require the use  
38 of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- 39 • Managers will not sign cooperative fire protection agreements that would  
40 commit wildland firefighters to situations where exposure to toxic gases or  
41 chemicals would require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- 42 • Managers will avoid giving the appearance that their wildland fire  
43 suppression resources are trained and equipped to perform structure,  
44 vehicle, and dump fire suppression, to respond to hazardous materials  
45 releases, or to perform emergency medical response.

- 1 **Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response-Structure, Vehicle, and Landfill**  
2 **Fires**  
3 Structure, vehicle, and dump fire suppression is not a functional responsibility of  
4 wildland fire suppression resources. These fires have the potential to emit high  
5 levels of toxic gases. Firefighters will not be dispatched to structure, vehicle, or  
6 dump fires unless there is a significant threat to lands and resources that are  
7 under agency protection, including by protection agreement. Firefighters will  
8 not take direct suppression action on structure, vehicle, or dump fires. This  
9 policy will be reflected in suppression response plans.  
10
- 11 Should firefighters encounter structure, vehicle, or dump fires during the  
12 performance of their normal wildland fire suppression duties, firefighting efforts  
13 will be limited to areas where the fire has spread onto agency protected lands.  
14 Structure protection will be limited to exterior efforts, and only when such  
15 actions can be accomplished safely and in accordance with established wildland  
16 fire operations standards.
- 17 • **FS - FSM-5137 - Structure Fires** *Structure fire protection activities*  
18 *include suppression of wildfires that are threatening improvements.*  
19 *Exterior structure protection measures include actions such as foam or*  
20 *water application to exterior surfaces of buildings and surrounding fuels,*  
21 *fuel removal, and burning out around buildings.*
  - 22 • **FS - FSM-5137.02 - Objective for Structure Fire Protection.** *The Forest*  
23 *Service's primary responsibility is to suppress wildfire before it reaches*  
24 *structures. The Forest Service may assist state and local fire departments*  
25 *in exterior structure fire protection when requested under terms of an*  
26 *approved cooperative agreement.*
  - 27 • **FS - FSM-5137.03 - Policy for Structure Fire Suppression.** *Structure fire*  
28 *suppression, which includes exterior and interior actions on burning*  
29 *structures, is the responsibility of state, tribal, or local fire departments.*
    - 30 • **FS - Forest Service officials shall avoid giving the appearance that the**  
31 *agency is prepared to serve as a structure fire suppression*  
32 *organization.*
    - 33 • **FS - Forest Service employees shall limit fire suppression actions to**  
34 *exterior structure protection measures as described in Section 5137.*
  - 35 • **FS - FSM-5137.03 2 - Structure Fire Protection and Suppression for**  
36 **Forest Service Facilities.** *At those Forest Service administrative sites,*  
37 *outside the jurisdiction of state and local fire departments, limit fire*  
38 *protection measures to prevention, use of fire extinguishers on incipient*  
39 *stage fires (FSH 6709.11, Sec. 6-4c), safe evacuation of personnel,*  
40 *containment by exterior attack, and protection of exposed improvements.*
    - 41 • **FS - At Forest Service administrative sites located within the**  
42 *jurisdiction of state and local structural fire departments, structure fire*  
43 *suppression responsibility must be coordinated with state and local fire*  
44 *departments.*

45  
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- 1 • **FS - FSM-5137.033 - Vehicle and Dump Fires**
- 2 • **FS - Do not undertake direct attack on vehicle or dump fires on**
- 3 *National Forest System lands unless such action is absolutely*
- 4 *necessary to protect life or prevent the spread of fire to the wildlands.*
- 5 • **FS - For additional fire service and homeowner information regarding**
- 6 *wildland/urban fire refer to <http://firewise.org> on the Internet.*
- 7 • **NPS - Structural Fire (including Vehicle Fires) Response Requirements.**
- 8 *Structural fire suppression is a functional responsibility in many NPS units.*
- 9 *Any structural fire response shall only be by personnel who have received*
- 10 *the required training and are properly equipped. Vehicle fires contain a*
- 11 *high level of toxic emissions and must be treated with the same care that*
- 12 *structural fires are treated. Firefighters must be in full structural fire*
- 13 *personal protective clothing including self-contained breathing apparatus.*
- 14 *Situations exist during the incipient phase of a vehicle fire where the fire*
- 15 *can be quickly suppressed with the discharge of a handheld fire*
- 16 *extinguisher. Discharging a handheld fire extinguisher during this phase of*
- 17 *the fire will normally be considered an appropriate action. If the fire has*
- 18 *gone beyond the incipient stage, employees are to protect the scene and*
- 19 *request the appropriate suppression resources. In order to protect the*
- 20 *health and safety of National Park Service personnel, no employee shall be*
- 21 *directed, dispatched, (including self-dispatching) to the suppression of*
- 22 *structural fires, including vehicle fires, unless they are provided with the*
- 23 *required personal protective equipment, firefighting equipment and*
- 24 *training. All employees must meet or exceed the standards and regulations*
- 25 *identified in Director's Order and Reference Manual #58, Structural Fire.*
- 26 • **NPS - Training Requirements for Firefighters Responding to Structural**
- 27 **Fires (including Vehicle Fires).** *All wildland firefighters who respond to*
- 28 *structural fires will meet the training requirements identified in Director's*
- 29 *Order and Reference Manual #58, Structural Fire and will be qualified at*
- 30 *least at the Structural Firefighter level.*
- 31 • **NPS - Medical Examination Requirements for Firefighters Responding to**
- 32 **Structure Fires (including Vehicle Fires).** *All wildland firefighters who*
- 33 *respond to structural fires will meet the medical requirements identified in*
- 34 *Director's Order and Reference Manual #58, Structural Fire. Medical*
- 35 *requirements include respiratory testing and some other components not*
- 36 *included in the wildland fire medical examination.*
- 37 • **NPS - Physical Fitness for Wildland Firefighters Responding to Structure**
- 38 **Fires (including Vehicle Fires).** *The physical fitness requirements as the*
- 39 *same as for wildland fire arduous duty.*

40

**41 Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response-Hazardous Materials**

42 Wildland firefighters have the potential to be exposed to hazardous materials

43 releases while performing their jobs. Hazardous materials or waste may be

44 found on public lands in a variety of forms (e.g. clandestine drug lab waste,

45 mining waste, illegal dumping, and transportation accidents).

46

1 In order to meet 29 CFR 1910.120, and to ensure familiarity with hazardous  
2 materials releases, all wildland firefighters will complete a one-time, two-hour  
3 First Responder Awareness training course and an annual refresher course  
4 thereafter (First Responders are individuals who are likely to witness or discover  
5 a hazardous substance release, and who have been trained to initiate an  
6 emergency response sequence by notifying proper authorities of the release).  
7 Awareness Class module 1703-07/11 is available from the BLM National  
8 Training Center and may be taught in the field office by the Hazardous  
9 Materials Coordinator.

10

11 Firefighters who discover any unauthorized waste dump or spill site that  
12 contains indicators of potential hazardous substances should take the following  
13 precautions:

- 14 • Follow the procedures in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide*.
- 15 • Treat each site as if it contains harmful materials.
- 16 • Do not handle, move, or open any container, breathe vapors, or make  
17 contact with the material.
- 18 • Move a safe distance upwind from the site.
- 19 • Contact appropriate personnel. Generally, this is the Hazardous Materials  
20 Coordinator for the local office.
- 21 • ***FS - FSM-5135.2 - Hazardous Materials*** Limit actions of Forest Service  
22 personnel on incidents involving hazardous material to those emergency  
23 measures necessary for the immediate protection of themselves and the  
24 public. If the material is a health and safety hazard requiring special  
25 measures for control and abatement, promptly notify the appropriate public  
26 safety agencies. Provide training in hazardous materials recognition and  
27 avoidance to employees whose exposure to such materials is likely (FSM  
28 2160).

29

### 30 **Emergency Non-Wildland Fire Response-Emergency Medical Response**

31 Medical emergency response is not a functional responsibility of wildland fire  
32 suppression resources. Wildland firefighters are not trained and equipped to  
33 perform emergency medical response duties, and should not be part of a  
34 preplanned response that requires these duties. When wildland firefighters  
35 encounter emergency medical response situations, their efforts should be limited  
36 to immediate care (e.g. first aid, first responder) actions that they are trained and  
37 qualified to perform.

- 38 • ***NPS - Emergency Medical Response Requirements.*** NPS employees who  
39 provide emergency medical services will adhere to the requirements  
40 contained in Director's Order and Reference Manual #51, *Emergency*  
41 *Medical Services*, once these directives receive final approval.

42

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1 **Roadside Response**

2 Positioning of vehicles and employee awareness is paramount when responding  
3 to incidents in close proximity to roadways. Refer to Appendix V, *Roadside*  
4 *Incident Response* which highlights tactical considerations for roadway  
5 responses.

6

7 **High Visibility Vests**

8 A new federal regulation, 23 CFR 634, will require anyone working in a right-  
9 of-way of a federal-aid highway to wear high-visibility clothing that meets  
10 industry high visibility requirements. For current information refer to:  
11 <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm>.