



USDA Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Fact Sheet



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Validating Doctrine... A Demonstration Project

The second phase of moving forward with the Fire Suppression Doctrine is validating the principles – or more simply put, ensuring that these principles mesh with the overarching rules and regulations currently in place for Forest Service firefighting activities. The validation phase represents an extensive amount of work and it is expected that this critical analysis phase will set the stage for final implementation.

During the validation phase, three significant efforts will get underway. The first involves subject matter experts and a supporting contractor that will compare the proposed doctrinal principles with the Forest Service manuals, handbooks, fire line handbook and various other incident response guidelines. The second effort will be a series of conference calls and meetings called “Dialogues” to facilitate the communication of our doctrine campaign. Finally, a demonstration project will be carried out in Regions 1, 3, 4, and 5 which is the subject of this paper.

During a conference call held on May 10, 2006 the attendees considered a methodology to demonstrate four key areas of principle-centered management. These include the development of a region level **doctrinal statement**, development and use of a **peer review** process, revision and testing of key fire **training courses**, and implementation of fire and aviation systems **risk assessment** projects.

Representatives were appointed from each of the four regions to lead the demonstration project. They are Jeff Scussel (R-1); Bill Waterbury (R-3); Steve Holdsambeck (R-4); and Peter Tolsano (R-5). Regular conference calls will be used to maintain a high level of communication among the group and periodic status reports will be shared widely to keep everyone informed of their progress. Additional support will be sought from the leadership group, called the Jedi Council, that was formed to finalize the Pulaski Conference doctrine and provide leadership of future implementation processes.

As this work proceeds, strong consideration will be given to how the Forest Service adoption and implementation of the Fire Suppression Doctrine will affect our partner firefighting agencies. Simultaneously, fire leadership will reach out to our partners affected by the adoption of doctrinal principles for candid discussion that, in the future, could lead to an interagency doctrine.

Upon the completion of this work, plans will be set into motion to begin implementation of Operational Doctrine by revising or supplementing the manuals, handbooks, and other

firefighting guidelines. Additionally, training courses will be updated on a national scale to reflect the doctrinal principles. Some changes may be implemented immediately, while others will take a little more time. All Forest Service employees will be well informed of the changes to come and eventually will be challenged to become involved in the implementation process. Along with understanding the meaning of doctrine and accepting it as a way of doing business, communicating is the key to its success!

Fire Suppression Doctrine may be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/doctrine/index.html>.
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