Chapter 13
Firefighter Training and Qualifications

Introduction

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) sanctioned firefighters are trained and qualified according to the NWCG and other standards, as outlined below.

Policy

Firefighters must meet standards identified in the NWCG publication *PMS 310-1 National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide.* The 310-1 may be found at http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm
- *FS - See FSH 5109.17 for additional requirements.*

Certain firefighters must meet standards identified in the *Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide.* The *Interagency Fire Program Management Qualification Standards and Guide* may be found at http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov

Agency standards for training and qualifications may exceed the minimum standards established by National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Such additional standards will be approved by the Fire Directors, and implemented through the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS). Standards which may exceed the minimum standards established by NWCG are identified in:
- *BLM - BLM Fire and Aviation Training Information Job Aid which can be found at :*
  http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/publications/job_aid.html
- *FWS - The Fire Management Handbook.*
- *FS - The FSH 5109.17. AD hires sponsored by the Forest Service will meet FSH 5109.17 position qualification standards.*
- *NPS - L380 Fireline Leadership is recommended training for single resource bosses; L-381 Incident Leadership is recommended training for RXB1.*

Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS)

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) is the fire qualifications and certification record keeping system. The Responder Master Record report provided by the IQCS meets the agency requirement for maintaining fire qualification records. The system is designed to provide managers at the local, state/regional, and national levels with detailed

qualification, experience, and training information needed to certify employees in wildland fire positions. The IQCS is a tool to assist managers in certification decisions. However, it does not replace the manager's responsibility to validate that employees meet all requirements for position performance based on their agency standards.

A hard copy file folder will be kept for each employee. The contents will include, but are not limited to: training records for all agency required courses, evaluations from assignments, position task book verification, yearly updated IQCS forms, and the Responder Master Record (RPTC028) from IQCS. All records will be stored and/or destroyed in accordance with agency policies.

- *BLM -* *These policies can be found at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/combined_record_schedules.html*
- *NPS - IQCS Account Managers should have an IQCS Delegation of Authority if they are serving as the Certifying Official. Delegation of Authority can be found at: http://iqcs.nwcg.gov/main/requestAccount.html*

Certification of Non-Agency Personnel

Non-agency firefighters will be certified by state or local fire departments, or private training providers approved by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through their local GACC. Agencies will not assist in the administration, or sponsor the Work Capacity Test (WCT), as the certifying agency.

Incident Qualification Card

The agency administrator (or delegate) is responsible for annual certification of all agency and Administratively Determined (AD) personnel serving on wildfire, prescribed fire, and all hazard incidents. This responsibility includes monitoring medical status, fitness, training, performance, and ensuring the responder meets all position performance requirements.

Training, medical screening, and successful completion of the appropriate WCT must be properly accomplished. All Incident Qualification Cards issued to agency employees, with the exception of Emergency Firefighter (EFF-paid or temporary employees at the FFT2 level), will be printed using the IQCS. Incident Qualification Cards issued to EFF or temporary employees at the FFT2 level may be printed at the local level without use of the IQCS.

Each agency will designate employees at the national, regional/state, and local levels as Fire Qualifications Administrators, who ensure all incident experience, incident training, and position Task Books for employees within the agency are accurately recorded in the IQCS. All records must be updated annually or modified as changes occur.

- *NPS - Certification for Area Command and Type 1 Command and General Staff (C&GS) position task books will be done at the national office level;*

Type 2 C&GS, and any position task books issued to park fire management officers will be certified at the regional office level. All other position task books may be certified at the local unit level. ~~XXX More information can be found in RM18 Chapter 10.~~

- *NPS - It is NPS policy that two or more assignments be accomplished after completing a Position Task Book, and receiving certification, before an individual begins movement to the next higher level. It is also NPS policy to require two or more qualified assignments be accomplished in a position before an individual may become a position performance evaluator. The only exceptions to this policy are unit leader positions leading to Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, or Finance Section Chief. Subordinate unit leader positions require a minimum of one assignment after the PTB completion and position certification.*

Incident Qualification Card Expiration Dates

Incident Qualification Card positions requiring Work Capacity Tests (WCT) are valid through the fitness expiration date listed on the card. Incident Qualification Card positions that do not require WCT for issuance are valid for 12 months from the date the card was signed by a certifying official.

Universal Training Requirements

All personnel filling Incident Command System (ICS) positions on the fireline must have completed:

- S-130 Firefighter Training
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- L-180 Human Factors on the Fireline
- I-100 Introduction to ICS
- All Responders:
   IS-700A NIMS: An Introduction[1]
- Single Resource Personnel:
   ICS-200 or equivalent
- Strike Team/Taskforce Leaders, Supervisors, and Branch Directors
   IS-800B National Response Framework, An Introduction[2]
   ICS-300 or equivalent
- Command and General Staff, Area Command and Emergency Managers:
   IS-800B National Response Framework, An Introduction[2]
   ICS-400 or equivalent

[1]IS-700A replaces IS-700. Either course meets the requirement
[2]IS-800B replaces IS-800A. Either course meets the requirement.
- *FS - Forest Service direction is found in FSH 5109.17.*

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all positions as identified in the *Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide* (NWCG 310-1) Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training must include the following core topics:

- **Avoiding Entrapments -** Use training and reference materials to study the risk management process as identified in the Incident Response Pocket Guide as appropriate to the participants, e.g., LCES, Standard Firefighting Orders, Eighteen Watch Out Situations, Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS) direction, Fire Management Plan priorities, etc.
- **Current Issues -** Review and discuss identified "hot topics" as found on the current Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) website. Review forecasts and assessments for the upcoming fire season and discuss implications for firefighter safety.
- **Fire Shelter -** Review and discuss last resort survival including escape and shelter deployment site selection. Conduct "hands-on" fire shelter inspections. Practice shelter deployments in applicable crew/module configurations.
- **Other Hazards and Safety Issues -** Choose additional hazard and safety subjects, which may include SAFENET, current safety alerts, site/unit specific safety issues and hazards.

These core topics must be sufficiently covered to ensure that personnel are aware of safety concerns and procedures and can demonstrate proficiency in fire shelter deployment. The minimum refresher training hour requirements for each agency is identified below. Training time may be extended in order to effectively complete this curriculum or to meet local training requirements.

The Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training course (RT-130) is not a self-study course. Minimum requirements have been established for instructors for Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training. These requirements will ensure that an appropriate level of expertise and knowledge is available to facilitate refresher training exercises and discussions.

- Lead instructors must be a qualified single resource boss.
- Unit instructors must be qualified firefighter type one (FFT1).
- Adjunct instructors may be utilized to provide limited instruction in specialized knowledge and skills at the discretion of the lead instructor. They must be experienced, proficient and knowledgeable of current issues in their field of expertise.

For additional information please refer to the current *NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide* (PMS 901-1) at:
http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/training/fmcg.pdf.

- *BLM -* *4 hours*
- *FWS/FS -* *No minimum hourly requirement; core topics as shown above will be covered.*

- ***NPS -*** *8 hours*
- ~~***XXX FS - No minimum time requirement.   Content dictated by National Fire Program Managers.***~~

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training will have a 12-month currency. Firefighters who receive initial fire training are not required to take Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training in the same calendar year. A web site, http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm, titled *Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)* is available to assist in this training.

- ***BLM -*** *The "Do What's Right" training is required annual training but is not a prerequisite for issuance of an Incident Qualification Card.*

Entrapment avoidance and deployment protocols are identified in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) (PMS No. 461/NFES No.1077)*. The guide contains a specific "Risk Management Process" and "Last Resort Survival Checklist".

Qualification and Certification Process

Each unit with fire management responsibilities will establish an Incident Qualification Card qualification and certification process. In areas cooperating with other federal, state, or local agencies, an interagency qualification and certification committee should include representatives from each unit. These qualification and certification committees provide management oversight and review of the wildland and prescribed fire positions under their jurisdiction. The committee also:

- Ensures that qualifications generated by IQCS or other agency systems for employees are valid by reviewing the training and experience of each employee.
- Determines whether each employee possesses the personal characteristics necessary to perform the wildland and prescribed fire positions in a safe and efficient manner.
- Makes recommendations to the appropriate agency administrator or designee who is responsible for final certification signature.
- Develops interagency training needs and sponsors courses that can be offered locally.
- Ensures training nominees meet minimum requirements for attending courses.

Non-NWCG Agency Personnel Qualifications

Personnel from non-NWCG agencies meeting *NWCG 310-1* prerequisites can participate in and receive certificates for successful completion of agency taught courses. Agency employees can complete the Task Blocks, Evaluation Record and Verification/Certification sections of a cooperating organizations employee Position Task Book. Agency employees will not initiate or complete the Agency Certification sections of Position Task Book for non-agency employees.

1

2 Personnel from agencies that do not subscribe to the NWCG qualification
3 standards may be used on agency managed fires. Agency fire managers must
4 ensure these individuals are only assigned to duties commensurate with their
5 competencies, agency qualifications and equipment capabilities.

6

7 **Non-NWCG Agency Personnel Use on Prescribed Fire**
8 The NWCG 310-1 *Wildland Fire System Qualifications Guide* establishes the
9 minimum qualifications for personnel involved in prescribed fires on which
10 resources of more than one agency are utilized - unless local agreements specify
11 otherwise. This guide may be found at:
12 http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm.

13

14 **Physical Fitness**

15

16 **Physical Fitness and Conditioning**
17 Agency administrators are responsible for ensuring the overall physical fitness
18 of firefighters. Employees serving in wildland fire positions that require a
19 fitness rating of arduous as a condition of employment are authorized one hour
20 of duty time each work day for physical fitness conditioning. Employees
21 serving in positions that require a fitness rating of moderate or light may be
22 authorized up to three hours per week.
23 Fitness conditioning periods may be identified and structured to include aerobic
24 and muscular exercises. Team sports are not authorized for fitness conditioning.
25 Chapters XXX 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 XXX and appendices F, G, and H of *Fitness and*
26 *Work Capacity,* XXX ~~2~~*nd* 2009 ed. XXX ~~(1997)~~ (PMS 304-2, NFES 1596) and
27 the FireFit Program (http://www.nifc.gov/FireFit/index.htm) provide excellent
28 guidance concerning training specifically for the pack test, aerobic fitness
29 programs, and muscular fitness training.
30 ● *FS - Forest Service direction is found in FSH 5109.17. NFFE Partnership*
31 *bargaining unit employees may only be required to successfully complete*
32 *the WCT once per year.*
33 ● ~~*XXX FWS - See the Fire Management Handbook for specific direction.*~~
34 ● *NPS – XXX A fitness plan is required for all NPS personnel participating in*
35 *a fitness program (DO-57). For health and fitness purposes, those who are*
36 *fire-qualified at less than the Arduous fitness level are not required to meet*
37 *the mandatory fitness program requirements of DO-57 for wildland fire*
38 *management. They are strongly encouraged to participate in the voluntary*
39 *fitness program, and must still meet physical fitness/work capacity*
40 *requirements as outlined in Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide*
41 *(310-1) for positions with Moderate and Light fitness requirements.*

42

43 **Medical Examinations**
44 Agency administrators and supervisors are responsible for the occupational
45 health and safety of their employees performing wildland fire activities, and may
46 require employees to take a medical examination at any time.

1 Established medical qualification programs, as stated in 5 CFR 339, provide
2 consistent medical standards in order to safeguard the health of employees
3 whose work may subject them or others to significant health and safety risks due
4 to occupational or environmental exposure or demand.
5
6 Information on any medical records is considered confidential and must be kept
7 in the employee's medical file.
8
9 **Department of Interior Wildland Firefighter Medical ==XXX== ~~Qualification~~**
10 **Standards Program (DOI/MSP)**
11 All permanent, career-seasonal, temporary, Student Career Experience Program
12 (SCEP) employees, and AD/EFF who participate in wildland fire activities
13 requiring a fitness level of arduous must participate in the ==XXX DOI-==MSP at the
14 appropriate level (see Medical Examination Requirements appendix N) and
15 must be medically cleared prior to attempting the WCT. Additional information
16 regarding the DOI-MSP can be obtained at
17 http://www.nifc.gov/medical_standards/.
18 • *FS - Refer to current agency direction.*
19
20 Under the DOI-MSP the Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) will only be
21 required for arduous duty AD/EFF hires less than 45 years of age. If the
22 AD/EFF answers "yes" to a HSQ question and is determined to be "agency
23 mission critical" (e.g. single resource boss) an annual exam may be requested
24 through the medical standards program. The HSQ is not required prior to taking
25 the WCT at the arduous level for all other employment categories (e.g.
26 permanent, seasonal/temporary, term).
27
28 Employees or applicants who fail to meet the Federal Interagency Wildland
29 Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards as a permanent, seasonal/temporary,
30 or term employee may not perform as an AD/EFF for arduous duty positions.
31
32 If a Department of the Interior ==XXX== ~~(DOI)~~ (BLM, NPS, FWS, BIA) arduous
33 duty Wildland firefighter (WLFF) develops a change in medical status (injury or
34 illness) between yearly medical exams that prevents them from performing
35 arduous duty lasting longer than three consecutive weeks, the WLFF is required
36 to report this change to his/her supervisor who will then contact the DOI-MSP at
37 wlffcsr@blm.gov or call 888-286-2521. The DOI-MSP will consult with the
38 respective Agency Fire Safety Representative and could request that the
39 contracted medical provider ask for additional medical information from the
40 WLFF and reevaluate the WLFF clearance status.
41 • *NPS - The law enforcement medical exam for NPS rangers, who are*
42 *collateral duty wildland firefighters, will suffice for MSP clearance.*
43 • *NPS - Medical clearance must be entered into IQCS.*
44 • *==XXX FWS-== Periodicity requirements for Refuge law enforcement*
45 *examinations will be applied to arduous duty wildland fire positions. Law*
46 *enforcement officers wishing to perform in NWCG PMS 310-1 or USFWS*

agency specific wildland fire positions with an arduous fitness requirement must pass the arduous work capacity test on an annual basis. The HSQ will be used for off exam years prior to arduous work capacity testing.

Agency Specific Medical Examinations

This section applies XXX to all employees required to complete a Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ).~~only to those employees and AD/EFF who participate in wildland fire activities requiring a fitness level of moderate or light.~~

The Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) will be utilized as a means to identify individuals who may be at risk in taking the Work Capacity Test (WCT) and recommend a medical examination prior to taking the WCT.

If any "Yes" answer is indicated on the HSQ, a medical examination is required prior to the employee taking the WCT. If there is a known pre-existing medical condition that is already being monitored under medical care (e.g., high blood pressure), a medical clearance statement will be provided by the physician in lieu of a medical examination prior to taking WCT.

Medical examinations will be performed utilizing the XXX *Certificate of Medical Exam, U.S. Office of Personnel Management* ~~U.S. Civil Service Commission Certificate of Medical Examination Form~~, XXX ~~SF-78~~ OF-178. Stress EKGs are not required as part of the medical examination and will only be approved if recommended and administered by the medical examining physician. Cost for exams will be borne by the home unit. If medical findings during exam require further evaluation, then the cost of any further evaluation or treatment is borne by the employee/applicant. XXX Costs for additional tests specifically requested by the agency will be borne by the agency.

XXX Standards for moderate and light OF-178s are available at
● Agency websites, GET LINKS

The examining physician will submit the completed XXX ~~SF-78~~ OF-178 (and applicable supplements) to the employee's servicing human resources office, where it will be reviewed and retained in the employee's medical file.
● *NPS -* The law enforcement medical exam for NPS rangers, who are collateral duty wildland firefighters, will suffice for MSP clearance.

Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ)
Title 5 CFR Part 339 - Medical Qualification Determinations, which provides a determination of an individual's fitness-for-duty, authorizes solicitation of this information.

The approved OMB Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) may be found at:
XXX ~~http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety~~
http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html

1

2 The information on the HSQ is considered confidential and once reviewed by
3 the test administrator to determine if the WCT can be administered, it must be
4 kept in the employee's medical file (EMF). This file may only be viewed by
5 Human Resource Management (HRM) or Safety personnel.
6 • **FS -** *See Work Capacity Test Implementation Guide, see website:*
7   *XXX ~~http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/~~.*
8   *http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html*
9

10 **WCT Categories**
11 The *NWCG Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1* identifies
12 fitness levels for specific positions. There are three fitness levels - Arduous,
13 Moderate, and Light - which require an individual to demonstrate their ability to
14 perform the fitness requirements of the position. Positions in the "no fitness
15 level required" category are normally performed in a controlled environment,
16 such as an incident base.
17 **XXX ~~BLM/FWS/FS~~** Law Enforcement physical fitness standard is accepted as
18 equivalent to a "light" WCT work category.
19

20   **Work Capacity Test Categories**

WCT Category	Distance	Weight	Time
Arduous Pack Test	3 miles	45 lb	45 min.
Moderate Field Test	2 miles	25 lb	30 min
Light Walk Test	1 mile	None	16 min

21

22 • **Arduous -** Duties involve field work requiring physical performance with
23   above average endurance and superior conditioning. These duties may
24   include an occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in
25   emergencies under adverse environmental conditions and over extended
26   periods of time. Requirements include running, walking, climbing, jumping,
27   twisting, bending, and lifting more than 50 pounds; the pace of the work
28   typically is set by the emergency conditions.
29 • **Moderate -** Duties involve field work requiring complete control of all
30   physical faculties and may include considerable walking over irregular
31   ground, standing for long periods of time, lifting 25 to 50 pounds, climbing,
32   bending, stooping, twisting, and reaching. Occasional demands may be
33   required for moderately strenuous activities in emergencies over long
34   periods of time. Individuals usually set their own work pace.
35 • **Light -** Duties mainly involve office type work with occasional field
36   activity characterized by light physical exertion requiring basic good health.
37   Activities may include climbing stairs, standing, operating a vehicle, and
38   long hours of work, as well as some bending, stooping, or light lifting.
39   Individuals can usually govern the extent and pace of their physical activity.
40

Work Capacity Test (WCT) Administration

The Work Capacity Test (WCT) is the official method of assessing wildland firefighter fitness levels. General guidelines can be found in the "*Work Capacity Tests for Wildland Firefighters, Test Administrator's Guide*" PMS *307, NFES 1109.*

WCT Administrators must ensure that WCT participants have been medically cleared, either through Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards or agency specific medical examination.

WCTs are administered annually to all employees, including AD/EFF who will be serving in wildland fire positions that require a fitness level. The currency for the WCT is 12 months.

The WCT Record (see appendix M) captures information that is covered under the Privacy Act and should be maintained in accordance with agency Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines.

Administration of the WCT of non-federal firefighters is prohibited for liability reasons. Potential emergency firefighters who would be hired under Emergency Hire authority by the agency must be in AD pay status or sign an agency specific volunteer services agreement prior to taking the WCT.

A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) shall be developed and approved for each field unit prior to administrating the WCT. See the sample JHA found in appendix U. Administer the test using the JHA/RA as a briefing guide.

- ***BLM -*** *A risk assessment shall be developed and approved for each field unit prior to administering the WCT. A RA for the WCT can be found at: http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-700/wo740/tools/RAWorksheets/ RAWorksheet_Library.html*

Field units need to prepare a medical response plan (such as ICS-206 form) and evaluate options for immediate medical care and transport and identify closest emergency medical services. A minimum of a qualified First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) must be on site during WCT administration. Based upon your specific evaluation a higher level of emergency medical qualifications on scene may be warranted e.g. EMT or Paramedic. XXX The need for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) may be identified in the medical response plan and used in accordance with state and local protocols.

Document XXX the results using the WCT Record (see appendix M). This document must be retained until the next testing. Units may also be requested to provide data from these records to assist in the evaluation of the WCT process.

Personnel taking the WCT will only complete the level of testing (Pack, Field, Walk) required by the highest fitness level identified for a position on their

Incident Qualification Card. XXX To further clarify, Employees shall not take the WCT unless they have an Incident Qualification Card qualification that requires it, and only at the fitness level required by that position as identified in the NWCG 310-1 or agency specific guidance or policy.

XXX Treadmills are not approved for Work Capacity Testing.

Test results must also be entered in the IQCS annually to update the fitness level and date that will appear on the Incident Qualification Card. Physical fitness dates entered in IQCS will reflect the date the employee passed the fitness test.

- *FS – XXX The Forest Service requires a minimum of a qualified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) must be on site during WCT administration. Forest Service direction on Work Capacity Testing is found in the Work Capacity Test Implementation Guide found at http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html*
- XXX *FWS- Refuge Law Enforcement Officers are required to provide a copy of the medical clearance for verification and tracking purposes to the appropriate incident qualifications and certifications system (IQCS) account manager. Account managers will reflect the appropriate examination type and currency for the Refuge Law Enforcement Officer examinations in the physical examinations portion of the IQCS system.*

WCT Retesting

Those who do not pass the WCT will be provided another opportunity to retest. Employees will have to wait at least 48 hours before retaking the WCT. If an employee sustains an injury (verified by a licensed medical provider) during a test, the test will not count as an attempt. Once an injured employee has been released for full duty, the employee will be given time to prepare for the test (not to exceed 4 weeks). The numbers of retesting opportunities that will be allowed include:

- Three opportunities for permanent employees required to pass a test for duties in the fire program.
- One opportunity for temporary employees required to pass a test (a second chance maybe provided at the discretion of fire management).
- *XXX FS - The Forest Service also uses the WCT as the official method of assessing wildland firefighter fitness levels. The specific direction, Implementation Guide, Health Screen Questionnaire, and required processes can be found at the following web site: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html.*

Minimum Age Requirements for Hazardous Duty Assignments on Federal Incidents

Persons under 18 years old will not perform hazardous duties during wildland fire management operations on federal jurisdictions.

Engine Modules

Staffing levels and specific requirements for engine personnel may be found in Chapter 14, Fire Fighting Equipment.

Helicopter Modules

Staffing levels and specific requirements for helicopter personnel may be found in Chapter 16, Aviation.

Smokejumpers (SMKJ)

Smokejumpers provide professional and effective fire suppression, fuels reduction, and fire management services to help land managers meet objectives.

SMKJ Policy

Smokejumper operations are guided by direction in the XXX interagency section of the *Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide (ISMOG).*

Each base will comply with smokejumper operations standards. The arduous duties, specialized assignments, and operations in a variety of geographic areas require smokejumpers to have uniform training, XXX agency approved equipment, communications, organization, and operating procedures.

~~XXX SMKJ Smokejumper Organization~~
~~The operational unit for smokejumpers is "one load." A load is typically 8-20 smokejumpers and varies as per aircraft type.~~

~~XXX SMKJ Coordination & Dispatch~~
~~Smokejumpers are a national resource and are ordered according to geographic area or national mobilization guides.~~

SMKJ Communications
All smokejumpers carry programmable radios and are proficient in their use and programming procedures.

~~XXX SMKJ Transportation~~
~~Smokejumper retrieval is accomplished by coordinating with the requesting dispatch center. More detailed information can be found in the guides mentioned above.~~

~~XXX SMKJ Safety~~
~~All aviation and parachute operations will be accomplished in accordance with standard operating procedures and regulations.~~

SMKJ Training

To ensure proficiency and safety, smokejumpers complete annual training that covers aspects of aviation, parachuting, fire suppression tactics, administrative procedures, and safety, related to the smokejumper mission and fire operations. The training program for first-year smokejumpers is four weeks long. Candidates are evaluated to determine:

- Level of physical fitness
- Ability to learn and perform smokejumper skills
- Ability to work as a team member
- Attitude
- Ability to think clearly and remain productive in a stressful environment

SMKJ Qualifications

Smokejumper Position	Target ICS Qualification
Department Managers	T2 &T1 Command & General Staff <mark>XXX</mark> ~~FUMA~~
Spotter	ICT3, DIVS ATGS, RXB2, SOFR
Lead Smokejumper	STLD, TFLD, FOBS
Smokejumper	ICT4, CRWB, FIRB
Rookie Smokejumper	ICT5, FFT1, FOBS

SMKJ Physical Fitness Standards

The national minimum standards for smokejumpers are:

- 1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes or less
- 45 sit-ups
- 25 pushups
- 7 pull-ups
- 110 lb. packout over 3 miles/level terrain/90 minutes
- Successful completion of the WCT at the arduous level.

Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC)

Interagency Hotshot Crews provide an organized, mobile, and skilled hand crew for all phases of wildfire suppression.

IHC Policy

IHC standards provide consistent planning, funding, organization, and management of the agency IHCs. The sponsoring unit will ensure compliance with the established standards. The arduous duties, specialized assignments, and operations in a variety of geographic areas required of IHCs dictate that training, equipment, communications, transportation, organization, and operating procedures are consistent for all agency IHCs.

As per agency policy all IHCs will be managed under the *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations (SIHCO)*.

- **BLM/NPS -** *BLM Preparedness Review Checklist #12 (Hotshot Crew) supersedes the checklist found in the SIHCO.*

IHC Certification

The process for IHC certification is found in the *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crews* (SIHCO), Chapter 5, page 14.

Annual Crew Pre-Mobilization Process

The superintendent of crews holding IHC status the previous season are required to complete the Annual IHC Mobilization Checklist (SIHCO Appendix C) and send the completed document to the local GACC prior to making the crew available for assignment each season.

Annual IHC Readiness Review

On an annual basis the superintendent of crews holding IHC status the previous season are required to complete the Annual IHC Preparedness Review (SIHCO Appendix B). This process is designed to evaluate crew preparedness and compliance with SIHCO. The annual review will be conducted while the crew is fully staffed and operational. The review is not required prior to a crew being made available for incident assignment at the beginning of their availability period. When a review document is completed the document is kept on file at the local host unit fire management office.

IHC Organization

Individual crew structure will be based on local needs using the following standard positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Squad Leader, Skilled Firefighter, and Crewmember.

IHC Availability Periods

XXX ~~The Crew Superintendent is responsible to inform local supervisor and the local GACC of any required changes in the crew's typing. IHCs will be available to meet or exceed availability periods specified in the current *SIHCO.*~~

- ~~**BLM -** *IHC crewmembers will receive 40 hours of basic or refresher training before their first fire assignment in a fire season. Refresher training will include, but is not limited to, crew safety, risk management, firefighter safety, fire behavior, communications, and organization. The final responsibility for crew availability will rest with the Superintendent's certification to local unit management that all training is complete. The minimum tour of availability excluding required training periods for BLM IHCs will be 130 calendar days for crews in the lower 48 states and 90 calendar days for crews in Alaska.*~~
- ~~**NPS/FS -** *IHCs follow the SIHCO, including minimum tours. In some regions, tours may exceed the minimum based on preparedness and fuels funding levels, or non-fire funding for these resources.*~~

IHCs will have minimum availability periods as defined in the SIHCO.
Availability periods may exceed the required minimum availability period.
~~based on preparedness and fuels funding levels, or non-fire funding for these~~
~~resources.~~ The Crew Superintendent will inform the local supervisor and the
GACC of any changes in the crew's availability.

IHC Communications

IHCs will provide a minimum of five programmable multi-channel radios per
crew as stated in the *SIHCO.*

IHC Transportation

Crews will be provided adequate transportation. The number of vehicles used to
transport a crew should not exceed five. All vehicles must adhere to the
certified maximum Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) limitations.

Other Hand Crews

Policy

All crews must meet minimum crew standards as defined in appendix T as well
as any additional agency, state, or contractual requirements. Typing will be
identified at the local level with notification made to the local GACC.

Crew Types

- **Agency Crews**

  Agency hand crews consist of qualified agency personnel and are organized
  on a local basis. These crews are designated as Type 2 or Type 2 IA.

- **State Crews**

  State crews are organized under the auspices of individual states. These
  crews may be designated as Type 1, Type 2, or Type 2 IA. These crews
  include organized state inmate crews.

- **Emergency Firefighter Crews (EFF)**

  These crews are usually Type 2 crews consisting of agency sponsored on
  call personnel who meet the requirements for Type 2 IA or Type 2 as
  defined in appendix T.

- **Contract Crews**

  These organized crews consist of personnel trained, equipped, and certified
  by a private contractor and must meet the contractual specifications as
  stated in their state or national crew contracts.

- ***XXX FS - The FS endorses the National Minimum Standards for crews and applies FSH 5109.17 for training requirements.***

Wildland Fire Modules

Information on XXX ~~fire use~~ wildland fire modules can be found at:
http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs317/PMS-317.pdf.

1 ● **NPS -** ~~The National Park Service has Wildland Fire Modules~~ *The primary*
2   *mission and priority of the modules is to provide skilled and mobile*
3   *personnel to assist with Wildland Fire Managed for Multiple Objectives in*
4   *the areas of planning, fire behavior monitoring, ignition, and holding.*
5   *Secondary priorities follow in the order below:*
6   *Support burn unit preparation.*
7   *Assist with fire effect plot work.*
8   *Support mechanical hazardous fuel reduction projects.*
9 ● **NPS -** *As an interagency resource, the modules are available nationally*
10   *throughout the fire season. Each module is comprised of a module leader,*
11   *assistant leader and three to eight module members. Modules are mobilized*
12   *and demobilized through established ordering channels through the GACCs.*
13
14 **Agency Certified Positions**
15
16 As a supplement to the qualifications system, certain agencies have identified
17 the additional positions of Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 3 (RXB3) - see Chapter
18 17; Engine Operator (ENOP) - see Chapter 2; and Chainsaw Operators and
19 Fallers listed below.
20 ● **FWS -** *See the Fire Management Handbook for agency specific position*
21   *information.*
22
23 **Chainsaw Operators and Fallers**
24 The agencies have established the following minimum qualification and
25 certification process for Chainsaw Operators (Incident Qualification Card
26 certified as Faller A):
27 ● Agency employees who are chainsaw operators and fallers must be
28   minimally qualified as a FFT2 and meet the arduous fitness standards.
29 ● Successful completion of S-212, including the field exercise, or those
30   portions of S-212 appropriate for Faller A duties.
31 ● Agency administrator (or delegate) certification of qualifications after
32   verification that training is successfully completed.
33 ● Documentation must be maintained for individuals.
34 ● The individual tasks required for completion of the "A" Task Book and the
35   final evaluation for the "A" level saw operators must be verified or signed
36   by a qualified "B" or "C" level saw operator.
37 ● The individual tasks required for completion of the "B" Task Book must be
38   evaluated by a qualified "B" or "C" level operator. The Final Evaluator
39   Verification for "B" level operators must be signed by a "C" level saw
40   operator.
41 ● The individual tasks required for completion of the "C" Task Book must be
42   evaluated by a qualified "C" level operator. The Final Evaluator
43   Verification for "C" level operators must be signed by a state approved "C"
44   level ~~certifier~~ evaluator.

1   ● Each of the states/regions will certify and maintain a list of their current "C"
2   class saw operators who they approve to be "C" class ~~certifiers~~ evaluators.
3   ● The certification of "C" class ~~certifiers~~ evaluators will remain the
4   responsibility of the agency administrator or delegate.
5   ● All fire related (Incident Qualification Carded) saw operation qualifications
6   are maintained through the IQCS system and will have a currency of five
7   years.
8   ● ***BLM/NPS/FWS -*** *Position task book found at:* XXX
9   ~~*http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/PDFs/Faller/PTBFallerABC.pdf.*~~
10   *http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/taskbook-agency/index.htm*
11 ● ***FWS -*** *See the Fire Management Handbook for additional direction.*
12   *Information regarding FWS required annual chainsaw refresher can be*
13   *found at:* XXX ~~*https://fii.fws.gov/nclogon.html. Requires logon.*~~
14   *http://sharepoint.fws.net/Programs/nifc/operations/default.aspx.*
15 ● ***FS -*** *FS direction can be found in FSH 5109.17 and FSH 6709.11.*
16 ● ***NPS -*** *Exceptions to the above policy are:*
17   *Size classes used in the Faller A, Faller B, and Faller C Position Task*
18   *Book are guidelines and are not the determining factor in the*
19   *complexity of a tree felling operation. The size classes are to be used as*
20   *an evaluation tool during trainee evaluation. Chainsaw operators are*
21   *expected to conduct a thorough size up of each individual tree and*
22   *determine the extent of qualification required to safely perform a*
23   *felling operation.*
24   *The individual tasks required for completion of the "B" Task Book and*
25   *the final evaluation for the Class "B" saw operations must be verified*
26   *by a qualified Class "B" or "C" saw operator.*
27   *The individual tasks required for completion of the "C" Task Book*
28   XXX ~~*and the final evaluation for the Class "C" saw operations*~~ *must be*
29   *verified by a qualified "C" level operator.*
30   XXX ~~*Certification*~~ *Final evaluation of "C" level operators must be*
31   *completed by a regionally-approved "C" level* ~~certifier~~ *evaluator.*