

## Chapter 09 Preparedness

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### Preparedness

Preparedness is the result of activities that are planned and implemented prior to wildland fire ignitions. Preparedness is a continuous process that includes developing and maintaining unit, state/regional, and national level firefighting infrastructure, predicting fire activity, hiring, training, equipping, and deploying firefighters, evaluating performance, correcting deficiencies, and improving overall operations. The preparedness process includes routine pre-season actions as well as incremental in-season actions conducted in response to increasing fire danger.

Preparedness actions are based on operational plans such as fire danger operating plans, which use information from decision support tools such as the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS, used in interior Alaska), the Palmer Drought Index, live fuel moisture data, and other Predictive Services and National Weather Service products such as Monthly or Seasonal Wildland Fire Outlooks, Seasonal Climate Forecasts, Wildland Risk Analyses, and other established information sources.

### Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan

A Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan is a fire danger applications guide for agency users at the local level. A Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan documents the establishment and management of the local unit fire weather station network and describes how fire danger ratings are applied to local unit fire management decisions. Fire danger rating operating plans may be packaged as either stand-alone documents or as part of a larger planning effort such as a fire management plan. Fire danger rating operating plans include, but are not limited to, the following minimum components:

- **Roles and Responsibilities**  
Defined for those responsible for maintenance and daily implementation of the plan, program management related to the plan, and associated training. Training for development of fire danger rating areas is available through NWCG-sponsored NFDRS courses.
- **Operational Procedures**  
This section establishes the procedures used to gather and process data in order to integrate fire danger rating information into decision processes. The network of fire weather stations whose observations are used to determine fire danger ratings is identified. Station maintenance schedules are defined as appropriate.

1 NFDRS offers several choices of fuel model and output to the user. Distinct  
2 selections of fuel model and index/component are appropriate for different  
3 management decisions (such as internal readiness or industrial and public  
4 restrictions). The choice of NFDRS fuel model and index or component used to  
5 determine fire danger ratings to support particular decisions is explained in this  
6 section.

7  
8 NFDRS requires periodic management in order to produce appropriate results  
9 that are applied in a timely manner. Some daily observation variables (such as  
10 state of the weather, fuels wet flags) are entered manually. This procedure  
11 (often called “taking the weather”) also initiates the calculation of daily and  
12 forecasted outputs in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS)  
13 and ensures data storage in the National Interagency Fire Management  
14 Integrated Database (NIFMID). These efforts are coordinated with the local  
15 National Weather Service fire weather meteorologists and Geographic Area  
16 Coordination Center (GACC) predictive services meteorologists to provide  
17 timely forecasted NFDRS outputs. Observed (afternoon) and forecasted  
18 (tomorrow) NFDRS outputs are communicated daily. Live fuel moisture model  
19 inputs (such as herbaceous vegetation stage, season code, greenness factor) are  
20 adjusted seasonally in WIMS (<http://famweb.nwcg.gov/>) at appropriate times.  
21 Decision points (such as percentiles discussed below) are determined in  
22 FireFamily Plus and reviewed and adjusted annually or more often as  
23 appropriate in WIMS and/or other fire danger platforms.

24 • **Fire Danger Rating Inventory**

25 Identifies basic components of the operating plan such as dispatch response  
26 areas, protection units, administrative units, fire history, land management  
27 planning direction, standards and guidelines, etc; aggregates NFDRS fuel  
28 models, slope classes (topography), and weather/climatology into fire  
29 danger rating areas; validates the existing weather station network and  
30 identifies any additional stations to support fire danger rating needs.

31 • **Climatic Breakpoints and Fire Business Thresholds**

32 Climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds are used to define fire  
33 danger inputs for management decisions in each fire danger rating area or  
34 group of areas. Activities, events, and fire operations affected by fire  
35 danger are identified, and appropriate NFDRS components or indices are  
36 selected as decision guides. Historical analysis of fire weather data is used  
37 to identify climatic breakpoints for staffing level and adjective fire danger  
38 rating outputs.

39 The Staffing Level is used to make daily internal fire operations decisions.  
40 A unit can operate with anywhere from 3 to 9 levels of staffing. Most units  
41 typically use 5 (1,2,3,4,5) or 6 (1,2,3L,3H,4,5). Staffing Level is a direct  
42 output of the danger rating processor and is based on one of the following:

- 43 ➤ NFDRS (Burning Index, Energy Release Component, Spread  
44 Component, or Ignition Component)

- 1       ➤ Keetch-Byram Drought Index
- 2       • Additional Considerations:
- 3       ➤ Palmer Drought Index or other drought index
- 4       ➤ Live Fuel Moisture (calculated or sampled)
- 5       ➤ Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
- 6       ➤ Soil Moisture

7

### 8 **Adjective Fire Danger Rating**

9 Adjective Fire Danger Rating (low, moderate, high, very high, extreme) is based  
10 on the NFDRS index or component used to compute staffing level and the  
11 ignition component. It is a general description of fire danger for the purpose of  
12 informing the public. Adjective ratings are computed automatically in the  
13 Weather Information Management System (WIMS) based on NFDRS  
14 parameters provided by local fire managers.

15

### 16 **Climatic Breakpoints and Fire Business Thresholds**

17 Climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds are established to provide  
18 NFDRS-based decision points for all appropriate management responses.  
19 Climatological breakpoints are points on the cumulative distribution of one fire  
20 weather/fire danger index without regard to associated fire occurrence/  
21 business. For example, the value of the 90th percentile ERC is the  
22 climatological breakpoint at which only 10 percent of the ERC values are  
23 greater in value. The percentiles for climatological breakpoints are  
24 predetermined by agency directive as shown below.

- 25       • *BLM - 80th and 95th percentiles*
- 26       • *FWS - 90th and 97th percentiles*
- 27       • *NPS - 90th and 97th percentiles*
- 28       • *FS - 90th and 97th percentiles*

29

30 It is equally important to identify the period or range of data analysis used to  
31 determine the agency percentiles, as well as what percentiles are used. The  
32 actual calculated percentile values for 12 months of data will be different from  
33 the percentile values for the fire season. Year round data should be used for  
34 percentiles for severity type decisions, and percentiles based on fire season data  
35 for staffing levels and adjective fire danger.

36

37 Fire business thresholds are values of one or more fire weather/fire danger  
38 indexes that have been statistically related to occurrence of fires (fire business).  
39 Generally the threshold is a value or range of values where historical fire  
40 activity has significantly increased or decreased.

41

42 Climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds are developed with NFDRS  
43 software, such as FIREFAMILY PLUS, and are applied to appropriate NFDRS  
44 processors, such as WIMS, to determine daily staffing levels and adjective

1 ratings. Training for the FIREFAMILY PLUS program is available at local,  
2 regional, and national NFDRS courses. Applications for climatic breakpoints  
3 and fire business thresholds include:

- 4 • Public Information
- 5 • Public/Industrial Use Restrictions
- 6 • Staffing Levels
- 7 • Severity Requests
- 8 • Situational Awareness
- 9 • Predictive Services
- 10 • Fire Planning
- 11 • Pre-Positioning
- 12 • Dispatch Levels
- 13 • Fire Program Analysis (FPA)
- 14 • National Preparedness Levels
- 15 • Local Preparedness Levels
- 16 • Resource Allocation
- 17 • Resource Prioritization
- 18 • Rx Fire Complexity Analysis

#### 19 **Fire Danger Pocket Card for Firefighter Safety**

20 The Fire Danger Pocket Card is used to communicate information on fire danger  
21 to firefighters. The prime objective of fire danger rating is to provide a measure  
22 of the seriousness of local burning conditions. The Pocket Card provides a  
23 visual reference of those conditions and how they compare to previous fire  
24 seasons. Pocket Cards are developed and implemented according to NWCG  
25 guidelines posted at <http://famweb.nwcg.gov/pocketcards/>. Fire Danger Pocket  
26 Cards are recommended at each local unit where weather data exists.

- 27 • *BLM - Fire Danger Pocket Cards are developed for and implemented at*  
28 *each local unit.*
- 29 • *FS - Forest Supervisors will develop and distribute Fire Danger Pocket*  
30 *Cards to each fireline supervisor.*

#### 31 **Preparedness Plan**

32 Preparedness plans provide management direction given identified levels of  
33 burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment, and are required at  
34 national, state/regional, and local levels. Preparedness Levels (1-5) are  
35 determined by incremental measures of burning conditions, fire activity, and  
36 resource commitment. Fire danger rating is a critical measure of burning  
37 conditions. Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* for more  
38 information on preparedness plans.  
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### 1 **Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans**

2 Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans are designed to direct incremental  
3 preparedness actions in response to increasing fire danger. Those actions are  
4 delineated by “staffing levels.” Each Step-Up Plan should address the five  
5 preparedness levels (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the corresponding planned actions that  
6 are intended to mitigate those fire danger conditions. Several assessment tools  
7 are available to measure fire danger.

8 Outputs from the fire danger rating operating plan process, such as staffing  
9 levels, are used to support the decisions found in staffing plans, step-up staffing  
10 plans, preparedness levels, dispatch response plans, dispatch response levels,  
11 etc. Increasing fire danger results in increasing staffing levels, suggesting a  
12 corresponding increase in preparedness actions intended to mitigate those fire  
13 danger conditions.

14  
15 The Staffing Plan describes escalating responses that are pre-approved in the fire  
16 management plan. Mitigating actions are designed to enhance the unit’s fire  
17 management capability during short periods (one burning period, Fourth of July  
18 or other pre-identified events) where normal staffing cannot meet initial attack,  
19 prevention, or detection needs. The difference between preparedness level/step-  
20 up and severity is that preparedness level/step-up actions are established in the  
21 unit fire management plan, and implemented by the unit when those pre-  
22 identified conditions are experienced. Severity is a longer duration condition  
23 that cannot be adequately dealt with under normal staffing, such as a killing frost  
24 converting live fuel to dead fuel or drought conditions. Severity is discussed  
25 later in this chapter.

26  
27 Mitigating actions identified in the fire management plan should include, but are  
28 not limited to, the following items:

- 29 • Management direction and considerations
- 30 • Fire prevention actions, including closures/restrictions, media messages,  
31 signing, and patrolling
- 32 • Prepositioning suppression resources
- 33 • Cooperator discussion and/or involvement
- 34 • Safety considerations: safety message, safety officer
- 35 • Augmentation of suppression forces
- 36 • Support function: consideration given to expanded dispatch activation,  
37 initial attack dispatch staffing, and other support needs (procurement,  
38 supply, ground support, and communication)
- 39 • Support staff availability outside of fire organization
- 40 • Communication of Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions
- 41 • Fire danger/behavior assessment
- 42 • Briefings for management and fire suppression personnel
- 43 • Fire information - internal and external
- 44 • Multi-agency coordination groups/area command activation

- 1 • Prescribed fire direction and considerations
- 2 • Increased detection activities

3

#### 4 **Seasonal Risk Analysis**

5 A Seasonal Risk Analysis requires fire managers to review current and predicted  
6 weather and fuels information, compare this information with historic weather  
7 and fuels records, and predict the upcoming fire season's severity and duration  
8 for any given area. It is important to incorporate drought indices into this  
9 assessment.

10

11 Information from a Seasonal Risk Analysis can be used to modify the AOP,  
12 step-up and pre-attack plans. It provides the basis for actions such as  
13 prepositioning critical resources, requesting additional funding, or modifying  
14 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to meet anticipated needs.

15

16 Each unit selects, and compares to normal, the current value and seasonal trend  
17 of one or more of the following indicators which are most useful in predicting  
18 fire season severity and duration in its area:

- 19 • NFDRS (or CFFDRS) index values (ERC, BI)
- 20 • Temperature levels
- 21 • Precipitation levels
- 22 • Humidity levels
- 23 • Palmer Drought or Standardized Precipitation Index
- 24 • 1000-hour fuel moisture (timber fuels)
- 25 • Vegetation moisture levels
- 26 • Live fuel moisture (brush fuels)
- 27 • Curing rate (grass fuels)
- 28 • Episodic wind events (moisture drying days)
- 29 • Unusual weather events (early severe frost)
- 30 • Fires to date

31

32 The seasonal trend of each selected indicator is graphically compared to normal  
33 and all-time worst. This comparison is updated regularly and posted in dispatch  
34 and crew areas.

35

36 If the Seasonal Risk Analysis suggests that an abnormal fire season might be  
37 anticipated, a unit should notify the state/regional office and request additional  
38 resources commensurate with the escalated risk.

39

40 Seasonal Risk Analyses are prepared, issued, and updated each year by GACC  
41 Predictive Service Units. Seasonal Assessment Workshops are conducted to  
42 facilitate these seasonal outlook reports. Local risk analyses should be compiled  
43 at the state/regional office to determine the predicted fire season severity within  
44 the state/region, and then forwarded to the respective national office for use in

1 determining national fire preparedness needs. Risk analysis is ongoing. It  
2 should be reviewed periodically and revised when significant changes in key  
3 indicators occur. All reviews of seasonal risk analysis, even if no changes are  
4 made, should be documented.

5

## 6 **FIRE SEVERITY FUNDING**

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### 8 **Definition**

9 Fire severity funding is the authorized use of suppression operations funds  
10 (normally used exclusively for suppression operations, and distinct from  
11 preparedness funds) for extraordinary preparedness activities that are required  
12 due to an abnormal increase in fire potential or danger, or to fire seasons that  
13 either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire management plan. The  
14 fire danger rating operating plan or annual operating plan should identify  
15 thresholds for identifying the need for severity resources.

16

### 17 **Objective**

18 The objective of fire severity funding is to mitigate losses by improving  
19 suppression response capability when there is 1) potential for abnormally severe  
20 fire behavior, or 2) fire occurrence outside of the normal fire season. When  
21 either of these conditions exist, and when suppression resources that were  
22 acquired through the approved fire planning process (e.g. NFMAS, IIAA, FPA)  
23 are insufficient to meet the extraordinary need, suppression resources may be  
24 requested through the severity funding process. Fire severity funding is not  
25 intended to raise preparedness funding levels to cover differences that may exist  
26 between funds actually appropriated (including rescissions) and those identified  
27 in the fire planning process.

28

### 29 **Typical Uses**

30 Severity funds are typically used to:

- 31 • Increase prevention activities
- 32 • Temporarily increase firefighting staffing
- 33 • Pay for standby
- 34 • Preposition initial attack suppression forces
- 35 • Provide additional aerial reconnaissance
- 36 • Provide for standby aircraft availability

37

### 38 **Authorization**

39 Authorization to use severity funding is provided in writing based on a written  
40 request with supporting documentation. Specific information required in the  
41 request is outlined below. Authorization is on a project by project basis and  
42 comes with a severity cost code. Agencies will follow their administrative  
43 procedures for issuing severity cost codes. Authorization is provided for a  
44 maximum of thirty days per request; however, regardless of the length of the

1 authorization, use of severity funding must be terminated when abnormal  
2 conditions no longer exist. If the fire severity situation extends beyond the thirty  
3 day authorization, the unit must submit a request for extension with supporting  
4 documentation or prepare a new severity request.

5

#### 6 **State/Regional Level Severity Funding**

7 Each fiscal year the national office will provide each state/region with \$100,000  
8 and a severity cost code for state/regional short-term severity needs (e.g., wind  
9 events, cold dry front passage, lightning events, and unexpected events such as  
10 off road rallies that are expected to last less than one week). Expenditure of  
11 these funds is authorized by the state/regional directors at the written request of  
12 the Agency Administrator. State/regional directors are responsible and  
13 accountable for ensuring that these funds are used only to meet severity funding  
14 objectives and that amounts are not exceeded. The national office will notify the  
15 state/regional director, state/regional budget officer, and the state/regional FMO  
16 when the severity cost code is provided.

- 17 • *FWS - Short-term severity or "step-up" cost codes are established yearly*  
18 *(at the Regional level) as PE01, PE02, etc (numeric value indicates the*  
19 *specific region utilizing short-term severity funding).*
- 20 • *NPS - Parks have the authority to approve "Step-up" actions only, as*  
21 *defined in their fire management plan. Regional offices approve severity*  
22 *(long term - up to 30 days) for parks up to \$100,000.*
- 23 • *FS - Forest Service severity funding direction is found in FSM 5190.*

24

#### 25 **National Level Severity Funding**

26 National Agency Fire Directors or their delegates are authorized to allocate fire  
27 severity funding under specific conditions stated or referenced in this chapter.  
28 Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the appropriate approving official at  
29 the written request of the state/regional director. Approved severity funding will  
30 be used only for the preparedness activities and timeframes specifically outlined  
31 in the authorization, and only for the objectives stated above.

- 32 • *NPS – National office approves all requests over \$100,000.*

33

#### 34 **Appropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges**

35

#### 36 **Labor**

37 Appropriate labor charges include:

- 38 • Regular pay for non-fire personnel
- 39 • Regular pay for seasonal/temporary fire personnel outside their normal fire  
40 funded activation period
- 41 • Overtime pay for all fire and non-fire personnel
- 42 • Severity funded personnel and resources must be available for immediate  
43 initial attack regardless of the daily task assignment



- 1 • Severity funded personnel and resources will not use a severity cost code  
2 while assigned to wildfires. The wildfire firecode number will be used.  
3 • Overtime pay for severity funded personnel will be paid by severity funds,  
4 unless the personnel are assigned to a wildfire.  
5

#### 6 **Vehicles and Equipment**

7 Appropriate vehicle and equipment charges include GSA rental and mileage,  
8 agency-owned use rate, and commercial rentals and contracts.

- 9 • *FWS – Repair and maintenance of Fish and Wildlife vehicles and  
10 equipment; FWS does not have a Use Rate covering these charges.*  
11

#### 12 **Aviation**

13 This includes:

- 14 • Contract extensions  
15 • The daily minimum for call when needed (CWN) aircraft  
16 • Preposition flight time  
17 • Support expenses necessary for severity funded aircraft (facility rentals,  
18 utilities, telephones, etc.)  
19

#### 20 **Travel and Per Diem**

21 Severity funded personnel in travel status are fully subsisted by the government  
22 in accordance with their agency regulations. Costs covered include:

- 23 • Lodging  
24 • Government provided meals (in lieu of per diem)  
25 • Airfare (including returning to their home base)  
26 • Privately owned vehicle mileage (with prior approval)  
27 • Other miscellaneous travel and per diem expenses associated with the  
28 assignment  
29

#### 30 **Appropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges - Prevention Activities**

31 These include:

- 32 • Funding Prevention Teams (Preventions teams will be mobilized as  
33 referred in the *National Mobilization Guide*, Chapter 20)  
34 • Implementing local prevention campaigns, to include community risk  
35 assessment, mitigation planning, outreach and education  
36 • Augmenting patrols  
37 • Note: Non-fire funded prevention team members should charge base 8 and  
38 overtime to the severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities  
39 assignment. Fire funded personnel should charge overtime only to the  
40 severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities assignment.  
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**1 Inappropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges**

- 2 • To cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated
- 3 (including rescissions) and those identified in the fire planning process
- 4 • Administrative surcharges, indirect costs, fringe benefits
- 5 • Equipment purchases
- 6 • Purchase, maintenance, repair, or upgrade of vehicles
- 7 • Purchase of radios
- 8 • Purchase of telephones
- 9 • Purchase of pumps, saws, and similar suppression equipment
- 10 • Aircraft availability during contract period
- 11 • Cache supplies which are normally available in fire caches

**13 Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements**

14 Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) are used during emergency  
15 incidents under authorities that allow for direct, non-competitive ordering using  
16 established procedures in the event of immediate threat to life and property.  
17 EERAs will not be used for non-emergency activities, including severity  
18 activities, rehabilitation projects, and hazardous fuels projects.

**20 Interagency Requests**

21 Agencies working cooperatively in the same geographic area should work  
22 together to generate and submit joint requests, and to utilize severity funded  
23 resources in an interagency manner. However, each agency should request  
24 funds only for its own agency specific needs. The joint request should be routed  
25 simultaneously through each agency's approval system, and the respective  
26 approving official will issue an authorization that specifies allocations by  
27 agency.

**29 Requesting Fire Severity Funding**

30 Fire severity funding requests should be submitted on the Interagency Severity  
31 Funding Request Form (Appendix GG), which includes a Cost Estimation  
32 Worksheet. The completed and signed request is submitted from the  
33 state/regional director to the appropriate approving official as per the sequence  
34 of action outlined below. Authorizations will be returned in writing.  
35 Modifications and extensions of existing requests should be made through the  
36 same process.

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1 **Sequence of Action and Responsible Parties for Severity Funding Requests**

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Action	Responsible Party
Identify and develop severity funding request.	Unit FMO
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) request. Forward to state/regional office.	Unit Agency Administrator
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) unit request. Add state/regional needs or consolidate with separate state/regional request (up to approved budget limit). Forward to state/regional director for approval within 48 hours.	State/Regional FMO
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) request. Forward to the appropriate National Fire Director/approving official within 48 hours. Notify the fire budget staff.	State/Regional Director
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) the request within 48 hours. Issue written authorization with a severity cost code.	Appropriate National Fire Director/Approving Official
Establish severity cost code in the appropriate finance system within 24 hours.	Applicable National Finance System
Notify unit office(s) and state/regional budget lead upon receipt of authorization.	State/Regional FMO
Execute severity cost code. Ensure that project expenditures are only used for authorized purposes.	Unit Office
Maintain severity files, including requests, authorizations, and summary of expenditures and activities.	Unit/State/Regional/National Offices

3

4 **Labor Cost Coding For Severity Funded Personnel**

5 Fire personnel outside their normal activation period, employees whose regular  
6 salary is not fire funded by preparedness and Administratively Determined (AD)  
7 employees hired under an approved severity request should charge regular time  
8 and approved non-fire overtime to the severity suppression operations  
9 subactivity and the requesting office's severity cost code.

10

11 Fire funded personnel should charge their regular planned salary (base-eight) to  
12 preparedness using their home unit's location code. Overtime associated with  
13 the severity request should be charged to the severity suppression operations  
14 subactivity and the requesting office's severity cost code.

15

16 Regular hours worked in suppression operations will require the use of the  
17 appropriate fire subactivity with the appropriate firecode number. Overtime in

1 fire suppression operations will be charged to the suppression operations  
2 subactivity with the appropriate firecode number.

3

4 Employees from non-federal agencies should charge their time in accordance  
5 with the approved severity request and the appropriate local and statewide  
6 agreements. A task order for reimbursement will have to be established and is  
7 authorized under the Interagency Agreement for Fire Management.

- 8 • *FS - Labor Cost Coding. Forest Service severity funding direction in FSM*  
9 *5190 provides agency specific direction.*

10

#### 11 **Documentation**

12 The state/regional and national office will document and file accurate records of  
13 severity funding activity. This will include complete severity funding requests,  
14 written authorizations, and expenditure records.

15

#### 16 **Severity Funding Audits**

17 State/regional and national offices should ensure appropriate usage of severity  
18 funding and expenditures. This may be done as part of their normal agency fire  
19 program review cycle. The severity funding audit checklist may be used as a  
20 guide for this process. Interagency Preparedness Review checklists can be  
21 found at: [http://www.nifc.gov/references/prep\\_review.html](http://www.nifc.gov/references/prep_review.html)

- 22 • *BLM - Severity funding is not a reviewed item of the BLM national*  
23 *Preparedness Review. BLM Preparedness Review Checklists can be found*  
24 *at:*  
25 *[http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/FIRE\\_AVIATION\\_PREPAREDNESS](http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/FIRE_AVIATION_PREPAREDNESS)*  
26 *[\\_REVIEW\\_GUIDE.htm](http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/FIRE_AVIATION_PREPAREDNESS)*

27

#### 28 **Fire Prevention/Mitigation**

##### 29 **Wildland Fire Cause Determination & Fire Trespass**

30 Agency policy requires any wildfire to be investigated to determine cause,  
31 origin, and responsibility.

32

33 For all human-caused fires where the guilty party has been determined, actions  
34 must be taken to recover the cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation,  
35 and damages to the resources and improvements.

36

##### 37 **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Prevention**

38 Fire programs are required to fund and implement unit level Fire Prevention  
39 Plans by completing a wildland mitigation/prevention assessment. The purpose  
40 of this is to reduce undesirable human caused ignitions, to reduce damages and  
41 losses caused by unwanted wildland fires, and to reduce the suppression costs of  
42 wildland fires. Wildland fire mitigation/prevention programs based on the Risk  
43 Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) process can reduce damages and  
44 losses during periods of average weather, fuels, and human activity. As weather

1 and fuel conditions move from average to above average or severe, and/or  
2 human activity increases, mitigation and prevention activities must be  
3 strengthened to maintain effectiveness.

4

5 Prevention includes education (sign posting plans, school programs, radio and  
6 news releases, recreation contacts, local business contacts, exhibits), industrial  
7 program monitoring (timber, mining, power line maintenance operations),  
8 reconnaissance patrols, and other activities to prevent and mitigate wildfire  
9 damage and loss.

10

- 11 • *NPS - Only units that experience more than an average 26 human caused*  
12 *fires per ten-year period are required to develop a fire prevention plan,*  
13 *based upon a prevention analysis such as RAMS; however, use of this*  
14 *software is not required.*
- 15 • *FS - Forest Service direction for wildland prevention and investigation is*  
16 *found in FSM 5110 and 5300.*

17

### 18 **Mobilization Guide**

19 The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) at the National  
20 Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is responsible for cost-effective and timely  
21 coordination of national emergency response for wildland fire suppression. This  
22 is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource  
23 orders between the federal wildland fire agencies and their cooperators.

24

25 The *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* contains standard procedures that  
26 guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support activity throughout the  
27 coordination system. It is designed to accommodate amendments as needed,  
28 and will be retained as current material until amended. Local mobilization  
29 guides should be used to supplement the *National Interagency Mobilization*  
30 *Guide*.

31

32 Geographic areas will provide NICC with two copies of their mobilization  
33 guides and will provide amendments as issued. Local mobilization guides  
34 should be prepared on an interagency basis. Local units will provide their  
35 geographic area coordination center with two copies of their mobilization guide  
36 or dispatch plan and amendments as issued.