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Chapter 03

National Park Service Program Organization & Responsibilities

This chapter summarizes specific requirements for NPS fire management programs. Fire managers should consult DO-18 Wildland Fire and RM-18 Wildland Fire for full guidance and descriptions of requirements summarized in this chapter. If there is a discrepancy between guidance found in this document and DO or RM-18, information contained herein will be considered authoritative as updates occur on a more frequent cycle than either the DO or RM.

Agency Administrator Roles

Director

The Director of the National Park Service is responsible to the Secretary of the Interior for fire management programs on public lands administered by the National Park Service. The Division of Fire and Fire Aviation Management is responsible to the Director for policy formulation and program oversight.

The Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management will meet the required elements outlined in the *Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations*.

Regional Director

The Regional Director is responsible to the Director for fire management programs and activities within their region.

The Regional Director will meet the required elements outlined in the *Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations* and ensure training is completed to support delegations to line managers and principal actings.

Park Superintendent

The Park Superintendent is responsible to the Regional Director for the safe and efficient implementation of fire management activities within their unit, including cooperative activities with other agencies or landowners in accordance with delegations of authorities. The Park Superintendent or principal acting will meet the required elements outlined in the *Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations*.

1 **Agency Administrator Management Performance Requirements for Fire**
 2 **Operations**
 3

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
1. Take necessary and prudent actions to ensure firefighter and public safety.	X	X	X
2. Ensure sufficient qualified fire and non-fire personnel are available to support fire operations at a level commensurate with the local and national fire situations.	X	X	X
3. Ensure Fire Management Officers (FMOs) are fully qualified as identified in the <i>Interagency Fire Program Management Qualification Standards</i> .	X	X	X
4. Provide a written Delegation of Authority (DOA) on an annual basis to individual(s) responsible for wildland fire management activities to ensure an adequate level of operational authority. Depending on park organizational structure, written delegations may be provided to the Chief Ranger, Natural Resource Specialist, FMO, designated Fire Coordinator, Park Group FMO, or to individuals from neighboring fire management organizations, provided a written agreement or memorandum of understanding is in-place. Where applicable, an Inter-park Agreement that specifies the reciprocal responsibilities of the Superintendent and Park Group FMO will be prepared. This Inter-park Agreement will be accompanied by an annual delegation of authority. Both the DOA and Inter-Park Agreement will remain valid until rescinded by either party, updates are needed, or personnel changes necessitate a revision and update. As appropriate, the DOA will specify multi-agency coordination (MAC) group authorities.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
5. Ensure applicable park resource management objectives are included in Fire Management Plan (FMP). Ensure FMP receives an interdisciplinary annual review and is validated and appropriately updated on an annual basis in advance of the fire season. A comprehensive and interdisciplinary review of the FMP should be completed every 5 years (RM 19, Chapter 4). Copies of the park's signed annual FMP Review and Update template (RM-18, Chapter 4, Exhibit 2) or packet, will be sent to the Regional FMO and to the FMPC in Boise.			X
6. Review and approve wildland fire preparedness funding based on and accurate and defensible readiness analysis. Review and approve fuels management funding requests.	X	X	X
7. Develop fire management standards and constraints that are in compliance with agency fire policies.		X	X
8. Ensure compliance with the collection, storing, and aggregation of Wildland Fire Program Core geospatial data (http://share.nps.gov/firegis).			X
9. Ensure use of fire funds is in compliance with Department and Agency policies.	X	X	X
10. Management teams will meet once a year to review fire and aviation policies, roles, responsibilities, and delegations of authority. Specifically address oversight and management controls, critical safety issues and high-risk situations such as team transfers of command, periods of multiple fire activity and Red Flag Warnings.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
11. Review safety policies, procedures, and concerns with field fire and fire aviation personnel. Discussions should include issues that could compromise safety and effectiveness during the upcoming season.			X
12. Ensure timely follow-up actions to program reviews, fire preparedness reviews, fire and fire aviation safety reviews, fire critiques and post-season reviews.	X	X	X
13. Ensure fire and fire aviation preparedness reviews are conducted in all units each year. Parks must complete checklists applicable to their specific program scope and complexity and include appropriate program elements, such as prescribed fire. A summary of the preparedness review findings including standards exceeded or needing improvement will be submitted to the Regional FMO before the fire season.		X	X
14. Ensure an approved burn plan is followed for each prescribed fire project, including technical review and Go/No Go checklists are completed, follow-up monitoring and documentation to ensure management objectives are met.		X	X
15. Meet annually with major cooperators and review interagency agreements to ensure their continued effectiveness and efficiency (may be delegated).		X	X
16. Ensure post fire reviews are conducted on all fires that escape initial attack or are managed as long term incidents. Participate in all reviews that require management by any type of Incident Management Team (Regional Director may delegate).		X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
17. Provide management oversight by personally visiting wildland and prescribed fires each year.			X
18. Provide incident management objectives, written delegations of authority and Agency Administrator briefings to Incident Management Teams.			X
19. Monitor wildfire potential and provide oversight during periods of critical fire activity/situations.	X	X	X
20. Evaluate the need for resource advisors for all fires and assign as appropriate.			X
21. Convene and participate in annual pre- and post-season fire meetings.	X	X	X
22. Attend <i>Fire Management Leadership Course</i> .		X	X
23. Ensure appropriate investigations are conducted for accidents (as defined in Chapter 18), entrapments, shelter deployments, and related events.	X	X	X
24. For all unplanned human-caused fires where liability can be determined, ensure actions are initiated to recover cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resource and improvements.		X	X
25. Ensure the development of Published Decisions within WFDSS with local unit staff specialists for all fires that escape initial attack.	X	X	X
26. Ensure there is adequate direction in fire management plans to identify fire danger awareness with escalating fire potential.			X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	NPS Director	Regional Director	Park Supt
27. Ensure compliance with Departmental and agency policy, as well as Regional Office-direction for prescribed fire activities and ensure that periodic reviews and inspections of the prescribed fire program are completed.	X	X	X
28. Review prescribed fire plans and recommend or approve the plans depending upon the delegated authority. Ensure that the prescribed fire plan has been reviewed and recommended by a qualified technical reviewer who was not involved in the plan preparation.			X
29. At National Preparedness Level 4 and 5, approve the initiation or continuation of prescribed fire applications based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources and activities and include feedback from the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group.		X	

1

2 **Fire Management Staff Roles**

3

4 **National Office**

5 The Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation (FAM Chief), NPS-NIFC, is
6 responsible and accountable for developing policy, program direction and
7 international coordination. The FAM Chief, along with the Branch Chiefs for
8 Wildland Fire and Aviation, work with interagency cooperators to coordinate,
9 reduce duplication, increase efficiencies in wildland fire management and
10 aviation, and provide feedback to regional offices on performance requirements.

11

12 **Regional Office**

13 The Regional Fire Management Officer (RFMO) provides leadership for their
14 fire and fire aviation management program. The RFMO is responsible and
15 accountable for providing planning, coordination, training, technical guidance
16 and oversight to the park fire management programs. The RFMO also
17 represents the Regional Director on interagency geographic coordination groups
18 and Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Groups. The RFMO provides feedback
19 to units on performance requirements.

20

21

- 1 **Park**
- 2 The Fire Management Officer (FMO) is responsible and accountable for
- 3 providing leadership for fire and fire aviation management programs at the local
- 4 level. The FMO determines program requirements to implement land use
- 5 decisions through the Fire Management Plan (FMP) to meet land management
- 6 objectives. The FMO negotiates interagency agreements
- 7 (contracting/agreements officer must review and process agreement) and
- 8 represents the Agency Administrator on local interagency fire and fire aviation
- 9 groups.
- 10
- 11 The Superintendent annually shall provide and update the expectations of
- 12 wildland fire program leaders by means of two instruments. One is a limited
- 13 Delegation of Authority (DOA) that encompasses the scope of duties outlined
- 14 above. The other is an Inter-park Agreement for those cases where a Park
- 15 Group FMO (or designee) handles defined duties on behalf of another NPS unit
- 16 within the defined Park Group.
- 17

Fire Management Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
1. Maintain safety first as the foundation for all aspects of fire and fire aviation management.	X	X	X
2. Ensure completion of a job hazard analysis (JHA) for fire and fire aviation activities so mitigation measures are taken to reduce risk.			X
3. Ensure work/rest and length of assignment guidelines are followed during all fire and fire aviation activities. Deviations must be approved and documented.	X	X	X
4. Ensure that only trained and qualified personnel are assigned to fire and fire aviation duties.	X	X	X
5. Develop, implement, evaluate and document fire and fire aviation training programs to meet current and anticipated needs.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
6. Establish an effective process to gather, evaluate, and communicate information to managers, supervisors, and employees. Ensure clear and concise communications are maintained at all levels.	X	X	X
7. Develop and maintain an open line of communication with the public and cooperators.	X	X	X
8. Ensure that the fire and fire aviation management staff understand their role, responsibilities, authority, and accountability.	X	X	X
9. Organize, train, equip, and direct a qualified work force. Establish "red card" certification/qualification process at the local level. Individual Development Plans (IDP) should be developed for all employees, but special emphasis must be on employees that do not meet standards.	X	X	X
10. Ensure fire and fire aviation policies are understood, followed, and coordinated with other agencies as appropriate.	X	X	X
11. Recognize when complexity levels exceed program capabilities. Increase administrative, managerial, and operational resources to meet the need.	X	X	X
12. Initiate, conduct and participate in fire management related reviews and investigations, including converted prescribed fires.	X	X	X
13. Provide for and personally participate in periodic site visits to individual incidents and projects.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
14. Utilize the incident complexity analysis to ensure the proper level of management is assigned to all incidents.		X	X
15. Review and evaluate performance of the fire management organization and take appropriate actions.	X	X	X
16. Ensure incoming personnel and crews are briefed prior to fire and fire aviation assignments.		X	X
17. Ensure the development of Published Decisions within WFDSS with local unit staff specialists for all fires that escape initial attack and within limitations contained within the Park's FMP.		X	X
18. Monitor fire season severity predictions, fire behavior, and fire activity levels. Take actions to ensure safe, efficient, and effective operations.	X	X	X
19. Provide fire personnel with adequate guidance and decision-making authority to ensure timely decisions.		X	X
20. Ensure a written/approved plan based on current land use and/or fire management plans and/or project-level NEPA document exists for each prescribed fire or non-fire treatment. Plans shall be integrated with related vegetation management actions such as invasive species management.			X
21. Ensure effective transfer of command of incident management occurs and oversight is in place.	X	X	X
22. Develop and maintain agreements, annual operating plans, and contracts on an interagency basis to increase effectiveness and efficiencies.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
23. Provide the expertise and skills to fully integrate fire and fire aviation management into interdisciplinary planning efforts.	X	X	X
24. Work with cooperators to identify processes and procedures for providing fire safe communities.	X	X	X
25. Develop, maintain, and annually evaluate the FMP to ensure accuracy and validity by completing a review. Ensure applicable park resource management objectives are included in the Fire Management Plan (FMP).		X	X
26. Ensure budget requests and allocations reflect analyzed anticipated workload.	X	X	X
27. Develop and maintain current operational plans, e.g., dispatch, pre-attack, prevention.	X	X	X
28. Ensure that reports and records are properly completed and maintained.	X	X	X
29. Ensure Wildland Fire Program Core spatial data is collected, stored, and aggregated based on NPS standards (http://share.nps.gov/firegis).		X	X
30. Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability in planning and expenditures.	X	X	X
31. Assess, identify, and implement program actions that effectively reduce unwanted wildland fire ignitions and mitigate risks to life, property and resources. Utilize safe, effective, and efficient management.		X	X
32. Effectively communicate the role of wildland fire to internal and external agency audiences.	X	X	X

PERFORMANCE REQUIRED	FAM CHIEF	RFMO	FMO
33. Complete trespass actions when unplanned human-caused ignitions occur.		X	X
34. Ensure compliance with National and Regional policy and direction for prescribed fire activities and ensure that periodic reviews and inspections of the prescribed fire program are completed.	X	X	X
35. Ensure all fire management actions and activities are consistent with those contained in the current Fire Management Plan and associated environmental compliance documentation.			X

1

2 **Requirements for Fire Management Positions**

3

4 All NPS employees assigned dedicated fire management program
 5 responsibilities at the park, regional or national level shall meet established
 6 interagency and NPS competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) and
 7 associated qualifications.

8

9 All NPS employees assigned to wildland fire management incidents will meet
 10 the training and qualification standards set by the National Wildfire
 11 Coordinating Group.

12

13 Refer to Chapter 13 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation*
 14 *Operations* for specific requirements.

15

16 All wildland fires will be managed by an individual qualified and certified at the
 17 command level appropriate to the complexity level of the incident.

18

19 The qualification standards identified in the *Interagency Fire Program*
 20 *Management Qualifications Standards* will be required, in conjunction with
 21 specific agency requirements, when filling vacant fire program positions and as
 22 an aid in developing Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for employees.

23

24 **Training**

25

26 **Training for Park Superintendents**

27 The following training is required for park superintendents.

- 28 • Fire Management Leadership

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1 The national course is the preferred alternative to the regionally-sponsored
 2 course. The training should be completed within two years of appointment to a
 3 designated management position.

4
 5 **Training for Fire Management Officers**

6 The following training is required for fire management officers.

- 7 • Fire Program Management (M-581).
- 8 • M-3 Aviation Management for Supervisors (every 3 years).

9
 10 **NPS Firefighters General Training Requirements**

	One-Time Training	Recurring Training	Annual Training
All Firefighters	Hazardous Materials-First Responder Awareness Level Aviation B3:Helicopter/Airplane Safety–classroom IS-700:National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction**	First Aid/CPR, every 2 years. Defensive Driving every 3 years. Aviation B3 (on-line), every three years.	RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Training EEO, Discrimination & Whistleblowing in the Workplace (on-line) * HazWOPR Refresher (on-line@DOILearn) Blood borne Pathogen (on-line)

11 *Training is not required for AD positions.

12 **For all other required NIMS training, see PMS 310-1. It is strongly
 13 recommended all NPS Wildland Fire personnel complete IS-800 to gain an
 14 introduction to the National Response Framework (NRF).

15
 16 **Structural Fire and Hazardous Materials Response**

17
 18 **Structural Fire Response Requirements (Including Vehicle, Trash, and
 19 Dumpster Fires)**

20 In order to protect the health and safety of National Park Service personnel, no
 21 employee shall be directed, or dispatched (including self-dispatching) to the
 22 suppression of structural fires, including vehicle fires, unless they are provided
 23 with the required personnel 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

1 Vehicle, trash, and dumpster fires contain a high level of toxic emissions and
2 must be treated with the same caution that structural fires are treated.
3 Firefighters must be outfitted with NFPA compliant structural fire personnel
4 protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus. Situations
5 exist during the incipient phase of a vehicle fire where the fire can be quickly
6 suppressed with the discharge of a handheld fire extinguisher. Discharging a
7 handheld fire extinguisher during this phase of the fire will normally be
8 considered an appropriate action. If the fire has gone beyond the incipient stage,
9 employees are to protect the scene and request the appropriate suppression
10 resources.

11

12 **Hazardous Materials Response**

13 Hazardous material response or control is not a functional responsibility of
14 wildland fire suppression resources. These incidents have tremendous potential
15 to cause significant health and life safety issues. In order to protect the health
16 and safety of NPS personnel, no employee shall be directed, or dispatched
17 (including self dispatching) to an incident involving hazardous materials unless
18 they are provided with the required personnel protective equipment and the
19 appropriate certification level. NPS personnel on incidents involving hazardous
20 material will limit their actions to those emergency services necessary for the
21 immediate protection of themselves and the public and the prompt notification
22 of appropriate public safety agencies. All wildland firefighters who are likely to
23 witness or discover hazardous substances are required to complete the agency's
24 First Responder Awareness (Level I) program, requiring 4-8 hours of initial
25 training and an additional 4 hours of refresher training annually.

26

27 **Delegation of Authority**

28

29 **Delegation for Regional Fire Management Officers**

30 In order to effectively perform their duties, the RFMO must have certain
31 authorities delegated from the Regional Director. The delegation of authority
32 should include the following roles and responsibilities:

- 33 • Serves as the Regional Director's authorized representative on Geographic
34 Area Coordination Groups, including MAC groups.
- 35 • Coordinate and establish priorities on uncommitted fire suppression
36 resources during periods of shortages.
- 37 • Coordinate wildland fire planning, response, and evaluation region-wide.
- 38 • Relocate agency pre-suppression/suppression resources within the region
39 based on fire potential/activity.
- 40 • Correct unsafe fire suppression activities.
- 41 • Direct accelerated, aggressive initial attack when appropriate.
- 42 • Develop and maintain agreements to provide for the management, fiscal and
43 operational functions of combined agency operated facilities.
- 44 • Suspend prescribed fire activities when warranted.

- 1 • Give authorization to hire Emergency Firefighters in accordance with the
2 DOI Pay Plan for Emergency Workers.
3 • Approve emergency fire severity funding expenditures not to exceed the
4 Regional annual authority.
5

6 **NPS Duty Officer (DO)**

7

8 All Fire Management Officers are responsible to provide DO coverage during
9 any period of predicted incident activities. DO's responsibilities may be
10 performed by any individual with a signed Delegation of Authority from the
11 local agency administrator. The required duties for all DOs are:

- 12 • Monitor unit incident activities for compliance with NPS safety policies.
13 • Coordinate and set priorities for unit suppression actions and resource
14 allocation.
15 • Keep Agency Administrators, suppression resources and Information
16 Officers informed of the current and expected situation.
17 • Plan for and implement actions required for future needs.
18 • Document all decisions and actions.
19

20 DOs will provide operational oversight of these requirements as well as any
21 specific duties assigned by fire managers through the fire operating plan. DOs
22 will not fill any ICS incident command functions connected to any incident. In
23 the event that the DO is required to accept an incident assignment, the FMO will
24 ensure that another authorized DO is in place prior to the departure of the
25 outgoing DO.
26

27 **Engine Operating Standards**

28

29 Current direction on the NPS Fire and Aviation vehicle program is at the NPS
30 Fire Operations Sharepoint site:
31 <http://npsfamshare/wildlandfire/operations/fleetandfacilities/default.aspx>
32

33 **Vehicle Color and Marking**

34 Vehicles dedicated to wildland fire activities shall be white in color and have a
35 single four-inch wide red reflective stripe placed according to NFPA 1906
36 (NFPA 1906 8.8.3, 2006 edition). The word "FIRE" red with white background
37 color will be clearly visible on all four sides of the vehicle. The NPS
38 Arrowhead will be placed on the front doors. The size and placement of the
39 Arrowhead will be as specified in RM-9. An identifier will be placed on the
40 vehicle according to local zone or GACC directions. Roof numbers will be
41 placed according to local zone procedures.
42

43 **Engine Staffing Standards**

44 If no ENGB is assigned, then the apparatus is designated as a Patrol or
45 Prevention vehicle, not as an Engine.

Engine Type	Recommended Daily Staffing†	WCF Mandatory Staffing During Defined Season	Minimum 410-1 Standards	Min Quals, out-of-park Response	Min Quals, In-park Response
3	5*	4*	3	ENGB, 2-FFT2	ENGB, 2-FFT2
4	5*	4*	2	ENGB, 2-FFT2	ENGB, FFT2
5	5*	4*	2	ENGB, 2-FFT2	ENGB, FFT2
6	3	3	2	ENGB, 2-FFT2	ENOP**, FFT2
7	3	2	2	ENGB, FFT2	See Below ***

1 † Recommended when status is available, but must at least meet minimum 410-
2 1 standards for off-park assignments.

3 * Engines staffed with more than 3 will always have a qualified engine operator
4 (ENOP) in addition to an ENGB

5 ** ENOP must also be qualified as ICT5

6 *** Determined by Park Superintendent and/or FMO, minimum FFT2

7
8 ENOP is an agency specific qualification. To add this position to an employee
9 in IQCS, use the NPS00 SetID.

10
11 NPS ENOP Prerequisites: FFT1, L-280, RT130, FITCAT, ENOP PTB
12 ENOP PTB can be found at: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/taskbook/taskbook.htm>

13
14 **Lights and Siren Response**

15
16 Responding to wildland fire incidents normally does not warrant the use of
17 emergency lights and siren on public roads by calling for or blocking the right-
18 of-way from other traffic in order to safely and effectively perform the NPS
19 mission. However, there may be rare and extenuating circumstances when
20 limited use of emergency lights and siren is appropriate and necessary due to an
21 immediate threat to life.

22
23 Those units that determine an emergency lights-and-siren response on public
24 roads is necessary to meet mission requirements must develop an operating plan
25 that ensures the following:

- 26 1. All vehicles (command, engines, etc.) will be properly marked, equipped, and
27 operated in accordance with state statutes, codes, permits and NPS requirements.
- 28 2. Drivers will complete training in the proper use of lights and siren response in
29 accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1451 Standard for
30 a Fire Service Operations Training Program and 1002 Standard for Fire

- 1 Apparatus Operator/Driver Professional Qualifications, as well as any state
- 2 requirements.
- 3 3. Drivers responding with emergency lights and sirens will be minimally
- 4 qualified as engine operator.
- 5 4. Lights and sirens will meet NFPA and state code requirements.
- 6 5. Posted speed limits will be followed at all times, regardless of response type.
- 7 6. Drivers will stop at all controlled intersections (sign, light, traffic officer)
- 8 before proceeding; drivers will stop or reduce speed as circumstances dictate
- 9 prior to proceeding through any uncontrolled intersections.
- 10 7. Traffic light changing mechanisms (e.g., Opticons) will only be used under
- 11 formal written agreement with state and local governments. They will be used
- 12 only when they are necessary to create safe right-of-way through urban high-
- 13 traffic areas. All pertinent state and local statutes and procedures will be
- 14 adhered to.

16 **Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance**

17 The cost of all vehicle repairs and maintenance is the responsibility of the
18 individual parks unless the damage is directly attributable to operations on a
19 wildfire. In that case, with approval from the IC, the damages may be paid for
20 under the fire's suppression account. Daily preventative maintenance checks,
21 regular servicing, and prompt repairs are critical to providing mission readiness,
22 performance, and safe operation. Annual required maintenance servicing and
23 monthly preventative maintenance checks will be conducted and documented.
24 Wildland fire vehicles that are not operationally sound or have safety
25 deficiencies must not be put into service. In addition, vehicles that suffer from
26 mechanical or safety issues while enroute or on assignment must be taken out of
27 service at the earliest opportunity in which it is safe to do so and must not be put
28 back into service until corrective action can be completed.

30 **Fixed Ownership Rates (FORs)**

31 FORs are fees that are paid into the WCF annually for each vehicle in the
32 program. These fees continue to accumulate over the life of a vehicle and are
33 used to replace the vehicle at the end of its life cycle. The FOR is adjusted
34 annually by the WCF manager to reflect changes in input parameters.

36 **Equipment Bulletins and Equipment Alerts**

37
38 The NPS mirrors the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) two-level Equipment
39 Bulletin (EB) and Equipment Alert (EA) System. The purpose of the system is
40 to share accurate and timely information regarding potential equipment
41 problems and/or needed repairs. The EB is primarily intended to inform the
42 equipment users of recommendations for repairs, potential hazards, or general
43 information related to the overall maintenance, awareness, and safe operation of
44 fire equipment. The EA is time sensitive and addresses potentially serious
45 hazards or risks. The alert includes a specific action that the user must act upon.

1 Unexpected issues involving wildland fire vehicles which do not fall under other
2 types of wildland fire reviews and investigations and/or other applicable federal,
3 state or specific agency requirements must be reported via an electronic form
4 located in the PDS fleet tab. If an unexpected vehicle issue warrants a EB or EA
5 it is issued by the National Fire Equipment Program Manager through the
6 Operations Advisory Team and the Capital Equipment Committee. Members of
7 these groups must ensure the information reaches all levels of the organization.
8

9 **Annual Safety Inspections, Scheduled Maintenance, and Daily Inspections**

10 It is required to complete and document annual safety inspections, regularly
11 scheduled preventative maintenance and daily (or pre-trip) inspections for all
12 NPS wildland fire vehicles. Annual safety inspections must be documented on
13 Form 1520-35 and uploaded into PDS. Regularly scheduled preventative
14 maintenance, unscheduled maintenance and repairs must be recorded in PDS.
15 Daily inspections must be recorded in the FEMPR (Fire Engine Maintenance
16 Procedure and Record).
17

18 **Wildland Fire Uniform Standards**

19
20 The Service-wide Uniform Program Guideline (DO-43) sets forth the
21 servicewide policies and associated legal mandates for wearing the NPS uniform
22 and for authorizing allowances to employees.
23

24 The guideline states that superintendents administer the uniform program within
25 their areas and are responsible for developing and communicating local uniform
26 and appearance standards in accordance with DO-43, determining who will wear
27 the uniform and what uniform will be worn and enforcing uniform and
28 appearance standards. Three options exist for uniforms for wildland fire
29 personnel:

- 30 • Within the context of the uniform standards, if the conventional NPS
31 uniform is identified at the local level as required for specified fire
32 management staff, fire program management funds may be used to support
33 uniform purchases in accordance with allowance limits identified in DO-43.
- 34 • While Nomex outerwear (i.e. shirts, trousers, brush-coats) routinely issued
35 as personal protective equipment has become recognized as the uniform of
36 the wildland firefighter as a matter of necessity, these apparel also have
37 justifiable utility as a uniform standard at the park level for certain fire
38 and/or ONPS base-funded wildland fire staff.
- 39 • When the conventional NPS uniform or the full Nomex outerwear is not
40 appropriate or justified, local management with park superintendent
41 approval may establish a predetermined dress code for fire staff. The goals
42 of the NPS uniform program can appropriately be applied (with common
43 sense) to this departure from the norm.
- 44 • The DOI Boot Policy is referenced in Chapter 7.
- 45 • The fire management officer is responsible for establishing a reasonable
46 allotment schedule for new or returning employees, commensurate with

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1 supplies provided in previous seasons. A suggested per person issuance is
2 three to four tee shirts, one ball cap, and one sweatshirt (where appropriate).
3 \$100 would normally be adequate to cover costs of this issuance.
4

5 Where appropriate and justified, fire funds may be applied to the purchase of
6 100 percent cotton tee shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps, with appropriate logo
7 and color scheme, to augment the Nomex outerwear worn in conjunction with
8 project or wildland fire management incidents. Nomex outerwear will usually
9 be returned to the park's fire cache based on the tour of duty (end of season,
10 transfer to another park, etc.).
11

12 Just as with uniform allowance discussed in DO-43, the intent of fire-funded
13 purchases is to defray the cost of the appropriate apparel, not necessarily to
14 cover the cost of all items. This will not only be factored into the quantities
15 deemed necessary for the individual, but would also preclude fire-funded
16 purchases of fleece jackets, rain gear and other personal items generally
17 considered the responsibility of those employees not covered by the NPS
18 uniform program. Exceptions to this should be well-justified and documented.
19

20 **Fire Management Credentials**

21 Official fire identification credentials are approved for issuance to National Park
22 Service (NPS) employees with fire as a primary or secondary responsibility as
23 identified in their individual position descriptions and approved by DOI Office
24 of Services for OWCP, Accountability and Retirement (SOAR). These
25 credentials provide fire personnel with similar professional identification as
26 being used by many fire cooperators. The fire credentials consist of a badge,
27 identification card, and case that are issued as government property. The badge
28 complies with national fire standards, has red trim, and is labeled as Fire Chief,
29 Fire Manager or Firefighter. The fire credentials are to be carried in a wallet
30 type case and utilized for identification purposes only and will not be worn with
31 the official NPS uniform or otherwise conflict with DO-43. Lost or stolen
32 credentials, as government property, should be entered into NCIC for
33 confiscation and returned when found.
34

35 **Fire Management in Wilderness**

36
37 Over 85% of all NPS lands are under some form of wilderness protection.
38 Because of the significance of wilderness resources and the requirement to
39 preserve wilderness character in those areas, all fire management actions in
40 wilderness (including the categories of designated, recommended, potential,
41 proposed, and wilderness study areas eligible) will be consistent with the
42 "minimum requirement" concept found in section 6.3.5 of NPS Management
43 Policies (2006).
44

1 Actions taken in wilderness will be conducted to protect life and safety, meet
2 natural and cultural resource objectives, and minimize unwanted impacts of the
3 fire management actions and the fires themselves. In evaluating fire
4 management actions, the potential disruption of wilderness character will be
5 considered before, and given significantly more weight than, economic
6 efficiency and convenience. Unless human life is threatened, only those actions
7 that preserve wilderness character and/or have localized, short-term adverse
8 impacts will be acceptable. Any delegation of authority to incident management
9 teams will convey appropriate emphasis on the protection of wilderness
10 resources.
11