

## Chapter 09 Preparedness

### 4 Preparedness

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

13  
14 Preparedness actions are based on operational plans such as fire danger  
15 operating plans, which use information from decision support tools such as the  
16 National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), the Canadian Forest Fire Danger  
17 Rating System (CFFDRS, used in interior Alaska), the Palmer Drought Index,  
18 National Weather Service and other predictive services products, live fuel  
19 moisture data, Seasonal Risk Analyses, and other established information  
20 sources.

### 22 Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan

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

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

42  
43 NFDRS offers several choices of fuel model and output to the user. Distinct  
44 selections of fuel model and index/component are appropriate for different

1 management decisions (such as internal readiness or industrial and public  
2 restrictions). The choice of NFDRS fuel model and index or component used to  
3 determine fire danger ratings to support particular decisions is explained in this  
4 section.

5  
6 NFDRS requires periodic management in order to produce appropriate results  
7 that are applied in a timely manner. Some daily observation variables (such as  
8 state of the weather, fuels wet flags) are entered manually. This procedure  
9 (often called “taking the weather”) also initiates the calculation of daily and  
10 forecasted outputs in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS)  
11 and ensures data storage in the National Interagency Fire Management  
12 Integrated Database (NIFMID). These efforts are coordinated with the local  
13 National Weather Service fire weather meteorologists and Geographic Area  
14 Coordination Center (GACC) predictive services meteorologists to provide  
15 timely forecasted NFDRS outputs. Observed (afternoon) and forecasted  
16 (tomorrow) NFDRS outputs are communicated daily. Live fuel moisture model  
17 inputs (such as herbaceous vegetation stage, season code, greenness factor) are  
18 adjusted seasonally in WIMS (<http://famweb.nwcg.gov/>) at appropriate times.  
19 Decision points (such as percentiles discussed below) are determined in  
20 FireFamily Plus and review and adjusted annually or more often as appropriate  
21 in WIMS and/or other fire danger platforms.

22 • **Fire Danger Rating Inventory**

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

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

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

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

- 41 ➤ NFDRS (Burning Index, Energy Release Component, Spread
- 42 Component, or Ignition Component)
- 43 ➤ Keetch-Byram Drought Index
- 44 ➤ Additional Considerations:

- 1       ➤ Palmer Drought Index or other drought index
- 2       ➤ Live Fuel Moisture (calculated or sampled)
- 3       ➤ Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
- 4       ➤ Soil Moisture

#### 6 **Adjective Fire Danger Rating**

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

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

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

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

27  
28 It is equally important to identify the period or range of data analysis used to  
29 determine the agency percentiles, as well as what percentiles are used. The  
30 actual calculated percentile values for 12 months of data will be different from  
31 the percentile values for the fire season. Year round data should be used for  
32 percentiles for severity type decisions, and percentiles based on fire season data  
33 for staffing levels and adjective fire danger.

34  
35 Fire business thresholds are values of one or more fire weather/fire danger  
36 indexes that have been statistically related to occurrence of fires (fire business).  
37 Generally the threshold is a value or range of values where historical fire  
38 activity has significantly increased or decreased.

39  
40 Climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds are developed with NFDRS  
41 software, such as FIREFAMILY PLUS, and are applied to appropriate NFDRS  
42 processors, such as WIMS, to determine daily staffing levels and adjective  
43 ratings. Training for the FIREFAMILY PLUS program is available at local,  
44 regional, and national NFDRS courses.

1 Applications for climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds include:

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

17

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

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

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

30

### 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.

39

### 40 **Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans**

41 Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans are designed to direct incremental  
42 preparedness actions in response to increasing fire danger. Those actions are  
43 delineated by “staffing levels.” Each step-up plan should address the five

1 preparedness levels (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the corresponding planned actions that  
2 are intended to mitigate those fire danger conditions. Several assessment tools  
3 are available to measure fire danger.

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

10

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

22

23 Mitigating actions identified in the fire management plan should include, but are  
24 not limited to, the following items:

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

43

44

**1 Seasonal Risk Analysis**

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

7

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

12

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

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

28

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

32

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

36

37 Local risk analyses should be compiled at the state/regional office to determine  
38 the predicted fire season severity within the state/region, and then forwarded to  
39 the respective national office for use in determining national fire preparedness  
40 needs.

41 Risk Analysis is ongoing. It should be reviewed periodically and revised when  
42 significant changes in key indicators occur. All reviews of risk analysis, even if  
43 no changes are made, should be documented.

44

## 1 **Fire Severity Funding**

2

### 3 **Definition**

4 Fire severity funding is the authorized use of suppression operations funds  
5 (normally used exclusively for suppression operations, and distinct from  
6 preparedness funds) for extraordinary preparedness activities that are required  
7 due to an abnormal increase in fire potential or danger, or to fire seasons that  
8 either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire management plan.

9

### 10 **Objective**

11 The objective of fire severity funding is to mitigate losses by improving  
12 suppression response capability when, due to the potential for abnormally severe  
13 fire behavior or fire occurrence outside of the normal fire season, current fiscal  
14 year appropriations are insufficient to provide for an adequate suppression  
15 response. Fire severity funds are not provided to augment the current  
16 appropriation or to cover the difference between the resources funded by the  
17 current appropriation and those approved in the fire management plan.

18

### 19 **Typical Uses**

20 Severity funds are typically used to increase prevention activities, temporarily  
21 increase firefighting staffing, pay for standby, preposition initial attack  
22 suppression forces, provide additional aerial reconnaissance, provide for standby  
23 aircraft availability, and other supplemental contractual services.

24

### 25 **Authorization**

26 Authorization to use severity funding is provided in writing based on a written  
27 request. Specific information required in the request is outlined below.  
28 Authorization is on a project by project basis and comes with a unit specific cost  
29 code and a project code. Authorization is provided for a maximum of thirty  
30 days per request, however, regardless of the length of the authorization, use of  
31 severity funding must be terminated when abnormal conditions no longer exist.

32

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

34 Every fiscal year the national office will provide each state/region with  
35 \$100,000 and a specific project number for state/regional short-term severity  
36 needs (e.g., wind events, cold dry front passage, lightning events, unexpected  
37 events such as OHV rallies that are expected to last less than one week).  
38 Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the state/regional director at the  
39 written request of the Agency Administrator. State/Regional Directors are  
40 responsible and accountable for ensuring that these funds are used only to meet  
41 severity funding objectives and that amounts are not exceeded. The national  
42 office will notify the state/regional director, state/regional budget officer, and  
43 the state/regional FMO when the project number is provided, and will request  
44 the applicable national finance center to enter the projects in the accounting  
45 system.

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**09-7**

- 1 • *FS - Forest Service severity funding direction is found in FSM 5190.*

2

### 3 **National Level Severity Funding**

4 The National Fire Director is authorized to allocate suppression operations  
5 subactivity funds greater than \$100,000 for use in preparedness activities to  
6 improve response capability. Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the  
7 national director at the written request of the state/regional director. Funds will  
8 be used only for preparedness activities and timeframes specifically outlined in  
9 the authorization, and only for the objectives stated above.

10

### 11 **Appropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges**

#### 12 • **Labor**

- 13 ➤ Includes regular and overtime pay.  
14 ➤ Severity funded personnel and resources must be available for  
15 immediate initial attack regardless of the daily task assignment.  
16 ➤ Severity funded personnel and resources will not use severity project  
17 number while assigned to a wildland fires. The incident number will  
18 be used.  
19 ➤ Overtime pay for severity funded personnel will be paid by severity  
20 funds, unless the personnel are assigned to a wildland fire.  
21 ➤ Overtime pay must be based on need; it is not guaranteed.  
22 ➤ Severity assignments/details may last up to 30 days and should not be  
23 constrained by 14-day fire assignment limitations.

#### 24 • **Vehicles and Equipment**

25 This includes GSA rental and mileage, agency-owned use rate (but not  
26 fixed ownership rate), and commercial rentals and contracts.

#### 27 • **Aircraft**

28 This includes contract extensions, the daily minimum for call when needed  
29 (CWN) aircraft, preposition flight time, and support expenses necessary for  
30 severity funded aircraft (facility rentals, utilities, telephones, etc.).

#### 31 • **Travel and Per Diem**

32 Off-unit personnel assisting in severity request assignments are fully  
33 subsisted by the government in accordance with their agency regulations.  
34 Costs covered include lodging, government provided meals (in lieu of per  
35 diem), airfare (including returning to their home base), privately owned  
36 vehicle mileage (with prior approval), and other miscellaneous travel and  
37 per diem expenses associated with the assignment.

38

### 39 **Inappropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges**

- 40 • Administrative surcharges, indirect costs, fringe benefits.  
41 • Equipment purchases.  
42 • The purchase of vehicles or maintenance, FOR, repairs, and upgrades.  
43 • Radios (unless approved by the National Office).  
44 • Purchase of Telephones (including cellular).



- 1 • Pumps, saws, and similar suppression equipment.
- 2 • Aircraft availability during contract period.
- 3 • Cache supplies which are normally available in fire caches.

4

#### 5 **Documentation**

6 The state/regional and national office will document and maintain severity  
7 funding requests, authorizations, and use. At a minimum, this includes:

- 8 • Signed request from the Agency Administrator (or state director) with  
9 rationale for the request (abnormal increase in fire potential or danger, fire  
10 seasons that either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire  
11 management plan, wind events, cold dry front passage, lightning events,  
12 unexpected events such as OHV rallies).
- 13 • supporting data such as predictive services products.
- 14 • signed authorization from the state/regional director (or national director)
- 15 • written record of how the funds are used.

16

#### 17 **Interagency Requests**

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

24

#### 25 **Requesting Fire Severity Funding**

26 National fire severity funding requests (including modifications and extensions  
27 of existing approved requests) should be requested in writing from the  
28 state/regional director to the national fire director. Requests should be dated and  
29 signed.

30

31 An example of a Fire Severity Funding Request may be found at the following  
32 website:

33 [http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/BLM\\_Fire\\_Severity\\_Funding\\_Request.htm](http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/BLM_Fire_Severity_Funding_Request.htm)

34

35 Fire severity funding requests should include, at a minimum, the following  
36 information:

#### 37 **Narrative Statement**

38 The signed and dated request letter should include a brief narrative description  
39 of the interagency fire situation (local and/or geographic) that justifies the  
40 request.

#### 41 **Quantification of Need**

42 To adequately quantify the need for severity funding, at least one of the criteria  
43 below should demonstrate that fuel and weather conditions exceed those used in  
44 the Fire Management Plan, and, therefore, the planned workload.

- 1 • **Fire danger models**  
 2 Fire danger analysis software (FireFamily Plus) that graphically contrasts  
 3 the current seasonal trend for ERC-fuel model G and any appropriate fire  
 4 danger indices with average and all-time worst values, based on an  
 5 analysis of year-round data. Likewise, those areas employing the Canadian  
 6 Forest Fire Danger Rating System should provide similar data for the  
 7 Buildup Index (BUI) and/or Duff Moisture Code (DMC).
- 8 • **Precipitation/drought**  
 9 The U.S. Drought Monitor plus one or more indices, such as the  
 10 Standardized Precipitation Index and Palmer Drought Severity Index,  
 11 which specify the departure from normal.
- 12 • **Fuel loading**  
 13 Quantitative information comparing current to average conditions.
- 14 • **Live and dead fuel moistures**  
 15 Current values, trends, average and all-time worst conditions. Include  
 16 Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI), Great Basin Live Fuel  
 17 Moisture Project reports, and Wildland Fire Assessment System (WFAS)  
 18 products as appropriate. Note that NDVI and Great Basin Live Fuel  
 19 Moisture Project data are compiled on weekly or longer basis.
- 20 • **30-day weather outlook**

21  
 22 **Itemized List of Requested Resources**

23 Resources should be requested by type, quantity, and cost. For each resource  
 24 type requested, the actual number of that resource type funded under the current  
 25 fiscal year appropriation should be identified, as per the example below.

26  
 27 **Authorization to Use Fire Severity Funding**

28 Requests for fire severity funding will be authorized or denied in writing from  
 29 the national fire director to the state/regional director. The National Fire  
 30 Director may authorize requests on a line item basis.

31  
 32 **Sequence of Action and Responsible Parties for Severity Funding Requests**

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. Forward to state/regional director for approval within 48 hours.	State/Regional FMO

Review, modify, and approve (or reject) request. Forward to National Fire Director within 48 hours. Notify the fire budget staff.	State/Regional Director
Review, modify, and approve (or deny) the request within 48 hours. Issue written authorization with project number.	National Fire Director
Establish projects in FFIS within 24 hours.	Applicable National Finance Center
Notify unit office(s) and state/regional budget lead upon receipt of authorization.	State/Regional FMO
Execute severity project. 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

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**Labor Cost Coding For Severity Funded Personnel**

- ***BLM** - Fire personnel outside their normal activation period and BLM employees whose regular salary is not funded by preparedness (2810), should charge regular time and approved severity overtime to the severity suppression operations subactivity (2821-HT) and the appropriate office's severity project number. Administratively Determined (AD) employees hired under an approved severity request should charge their time to the severity suppression operations subactivity (2821-HT) using the hiring unit's organizational code and severity project number.*
- ***BLM** - BLM fire funded personnel should charge their regular base (guarantee) hours (8, 9, or 10 hours per the normal weekly tour of duty) to preparedness (2810) using their home unit's organizational code. Overtime associated with the severity request should be charged to the severity suppression operations subactivity (2821-HT) using the appropriate office's organizational code and severity project number.*
- ***BLM** - Regular hours worked in suppression operations will require the use of the appropriate fire subactivity (2810-HU or 2821-HU) with the appropriate Fire Code number. Overtime in fire suppression operations will be charged to the suppression operations subactivity (2821-HU) using the home unit organizational code and Fire Code number.*
- ***BLM** - Non-federal agency employees should charge their time in accordance with the approved severity request and the appropriate local and statewide agreements. A reimbursable agreement should be established and is authorized under the Interagency Agreement for Fire Management.*

- 1 • *FWS - Labor Cost Coding. Refer to Fire Management Handbook.*
- 2 • *NPS - Labor Cost Coding. NPS severity funding direction in RM 18,*
- 3 *Chapters 18 & 19.*
- 4 • *FS - Labor Cost Coding. Forest Service severity funding direction in FSM*
- 5 *5190 provides agency specific direction.*

## 6 **Fire Prevention/Mitigation**

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

9 Agency policy requires any wildfire to be investigated to determine cause,  
10 origin, and responsibility.

11  
12  
13 For all human-caused fires where the guilty party has been determined, actions  
14 must be taken to recover the cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation,  
15 and damages to the resources and improvements.

### 16 **Wildland Fire Mitigation/Prevention**

17 To “proactively” mitigate damages and losses from unwanted wildland fires,  
18 reduce undesirable human caused ignitions, reduce suppression costs and  
19 mitigate the risks of wildland fire to natural and cultural resources, private  
20 property and the lives of firefighters and the public, units are required to fund  
21 and implement a unit Fire Prevention Plan by completing a wildland  
22 mitigation/prevention assessment (see RAMS below).

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

29  
30  
31 Wildland fire mitigation/prevention programs based on risks, hazards and values  
32 as determined through the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS)  
33 process are extremely effective in reducing damages and losses during periods  
34 of “average” weather, fuels, and human activity conditions. As “fire season”  
35 weather and fuel conditions move from normal to above average or severe,  
36 and/or human activity increases substantially, mitigation/prevention programs  
37 must be “stepped up” to maintain their ignition and loss prevention  
38 effectiveness.

39  
40 Therefore, as the components of wildland severity, human activities, Fire  
41 Danger Operating Plan thresholds, and other signals indicate, additional  
42 mitigation/prevention actions must be initiated and/or additional resources (Fire  
43 Prevention/Education Teams, etc.) should be obtained through fire severity  
44 requests or other means. With these additional efforts and resources in place

1 before conditions and fire activity become problematic, suppression resources  
2 become more efficient (with reduced human-caused ignitions, suppression  
3 resources are available for response to unpreventable ignitions) and exposure to  
4 all firefighters and the public is reduced.

5

6 The mitigation of risk and losses during periods of wildland severity can be  
7 addressed by:

- 8 • Conducting local/regional interagency fire prevention needs assessments  
9 which determine the appropriate level of mitigation/prevention actions and  
10 resources, then obtaining these resources through details, field/state office  
11 severity requests, regional/national resource orders, etc.
- 12 • Mobilizing local or regional “fire prevention/education” team(s) to quickly  
13 assess, plan and implement immediate mitigation and outreach strategies  
14 during periods of abnormal wildland fire risk and/or human activity. Refer  
15 to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide (Chapter 20)* or regional  
16 mobilization guides for prevention/education team information and  
17 mobilization procedures.

18

### 19 **Mobilization Guide**

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

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.