

## Chapter 10 Preparedness

### Preparedness

Preparedness is the result of activities that are planned and implemented prior to wildland fire ignitions to ensure safe, efficient, and effective management action. 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 (FDOPs), Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans, and/or initial response plans.

### Fire Danger Operating Plan

FDOPs 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, monthly or seasonal wildland fire outlooks, seasonal climate forecasts, and wildland fire risk analyses. FDOPs should be prepared by individuals trained at the Intermediate NFDRS (S-491) level, and preferably the Advanced NFDRS level.

The FDOP guides the application of information from decision support tools (i.e. NFDRS, CFFDRS, etc.) at the local level. A FDOP 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. FDOPs are generally prepared for local interagency areas; therefore, interagency involvement throughout the process is essential. Interagency FDOPs are an integral component of unit fire management plan(s). FDOPs may be packaged as a stand-alone document or as part of a larger planning effort (such as a fire management plan).

All units will develop and maintain a Fire Danger Operating Plan. Fire Danger Operating Plans include, but are not limited to, the following 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.

- 1 Training for development of fire danger rating areas is available through  
2 NWCG-sponsored NFDRS courses.
- 3 • **Fire Danger Rating Inventory**  
4 An inventory of the basic components of the operating plan will include a  
5 description of the dispatch response areas, protection units, administrative  
6 units, fire occurrence, land management objectives, standards, guidelines,  
7 etc. The fire danger rating inventory:
    - 8 ○ includes identification of fire/ignition issues specific to the area;
    - 9 ○ incorporates NFDRS fuel models, slope classes (topography, and  
10 weather/climatology into Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs); and
    - 11 ○ validates the existing weather station network and identifies any  
12 additional weather stations that support fire danger rating needs.
  - 13 • **Operational Procedures**  
14 This section establishes the procedures used to gather and process data in  
15 order to integrate fire danger rating information into decision processes.  
16 The network of fire weather stations whose observations are used to  
17 determine fire danger ratings is identified. Station maintenance  
18 responsibilities and schedules are defined.
    - 19 ○ NFDRS offers several choices of fuel model and output to the user.  
20 Distinct selections of fuel model and index/component are appropriate  
21 for different management decisions (such as internal readiness or  
22 industrial and public restrictions). The choice of NFDRS fuel model  
23 and index or component used to determine fire danger ratings to  
24 support particular decisions is explained in this section.
    - 25 ○ NFDRS requires periodic management in order to produce appropriate  
26 results that are applied in a timely manner. Some daily observation  
27 variables (such as state of the weather) must be manually validated  
28 and published daily. This procedure is essential for the calculation of  
29 daily and forecasted NFDRS outputs in the Weather Information  
30 Management System (WIMS) and ensures weather data storage in the  
31 National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database  
32 (NIFMID). These efforts are coordinated with the local National  
33 Weather Service fire weather meteorologists and Geographic Area  
34 Coordination Center (GACC) predictive services meteorologists to  
35 provide timely forecasted NFDRS outputs. Observed (today) and  
36 forecasted (tomorrow) NFDRS outputs are communicated daily. Live  
37 fuel moisture model inputs (such as herbaceous vegetation type/stage,  
38 season code, greenness factor) are adjusted seasonally in WIMS  
39 (<http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/>) at appropriate times. Decision points  
40 are determined through analysis using FireFamily Plus and reviewed  
41 and adjusted annually or more often as appropriate in WIMS.
  - 42 • **Climatic Breakpoints and Fire Business Thresholds**  
43 Climatological breakpoints and fire business thresholds are established to  
44 provide NFDRS-based decision points for all appropriate management  
45 responses in a Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). Climatological

1 breakpoints are points on the cumulative distribution of one fire  
2 weather/danger index computed from climatology without regard for  
3 associated fire occurrence/business. For example, the value of the 90th  
4 percentile ERC is the climatological breakpoint at which only 10 percent of  
5 the ERC values are greater in value. Climatological percentiles are used for  
6 budgetary decisions by federal agencies.

- 7 ○ BLM - 80th and 95th percentiles
- 8 ○ FWS/NPS/FS - 90th and 97th percentiles

9  
10 It is important to identify the period or range of data analysis used to determine  
11 the agency percentiles. The percentile values for 12 months of data will be  
12 different from the percentile values for the fire season. Year round data should  
13 be used for percentiles for severity type decisions, and percentiles based on fire  
14 season data for staffing levels and adjective fire danger rating.

15  
16 It is equally important to recognize that these agency-specific climatological  
17 percentiles represent a method to describe a point during the year with respect to  
18 fire weather/danger indices computed from historical weather only.  
19 Climatological percentiles do not incorporate the correlation of fire occurrence  
20 data.

21  
22 Fire business thresholds are values of one or more fire weather/fire danger  
23 indices that have been statistically related to occurrence of fires (fire business).  
24 Generally, the threshold is a range of weather/fire danger values where fire  
25 activity has significantly increased or decreased. Assuming that a  
26 comprehensive FireFamilyPlus analysis of historical weather and fire occurrence  
27 data is completed, fire business thresholds are expected to more closely predict  
28 large and/or multiple fire activity than climatological breakpoints.

### 29 30 **Staffing Level**

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

- 36 ● NFDRS (Burning Index, Energy Release Component, Spread Component,  
37 or Ignition Component)
- 38 ● Keetch-Byram Drought Index

### 39 40 **Adjective Fire Danger Rating**

41 Adjective Fire Danger Rating (low, moderate, high, very high, extreme) is based  
42 on the NFDRS index or component used to compute staffing level and the  
43 ignition component (the probability that a firebrand would cause a wildland  
44 fire). It is a general description of fire danger for the purpose of informing the

1 public. Adjective ratings are computed automatically in the WIMS based on  
2 NFDRS parameters provided by local fire managers.

3  
4 Climatological breakpoints and fire business thresholds are developed with  
5 NFDRS software, such as FireFamilyPlus, and are applied in the NFDRS  
6 processor, (WIMS), to determine daily staffing levels and adjective ratings.

### 8 **Preparedness Plans**

9  
10 Preparedness plans provide management direction given identified levels of  
11 burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment, and are required at  
12 national, state/regional, and local levels. Preparedness plans must be  
13 documented as part of the unit's Fire Management Plan. Preparedness plans  
14 consist of:

- 15 • An analysis and decision making process, including a Fire Danger  
16 Operating Plan;
- 17 • A validation that each Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) meets  
18 the requirements of the *Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station*  
19 *Standards and Guidelines* (PMS 426-3); and
- 20 • The identification of actions to be taken in response to increasing levels of  
21 fire severity and activity (preparedness level) at the unit level. Preparedness  
22 levels (1-5) are determined by incremental measures of burning conditions,  
23 fire activity, and resource commitment.

24  
25 Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and GACC Mobilization  
26 Guides for more information on preparedness plans.

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

29  
30 Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans are designed to direct incremental  
31 preparedness actions in response to increasing fire danger. Each Step-Up Plan  
32 should address the five preparedness levels (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the  
33 corresponding planned actions that are intended to mitigate those fire danger  
34 conditions.

35  
36 Outputs from the FDOP process are used to support the decisions found in  
37 staffing plans, step-up staffing plans, preparedness levels, dispatch response  
38 plans, dispatch response levels, etc. Increasing fire danger suggests a  
39 corresponding increase in preparedness actions intended to mitigate those fire  
40 danger conditions.

41  
42 The Staffing Plan describes escalating responses that are pre-approved in the  
43 FDOP and fire management plan. Mitigating actions are designed to enhance  
44 the unit's fire management capability during short periods (one burning period,

1 Fourth of July, or other pre-identified events) where normal staffing cannot meet  
2 initial attack, prevention, or detection needs.

3

4 The difference between preparedness level/step-up and severity is that  
5 preparedness level/step-up actions are established in the unit FDOP and fire  
6 management plan and implemented by the unit when those pre-identified  
7 conditions are experienced. Severity is a longer duration condition that cannot  
8 be adequately dealt with under normal staffing, such as a killing frost converting  
9 live fuel to dead fuel or drought conditions. Severity is discussed later in this  
10 chapter.

11

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

- 14 • Management direction and considerations
- 15 • Fire prevention actions, including closures/restrictions, media messages,  
16 signing, and patrolling
- 17 • Prepositioning suppression resources
- 18 • Cooperator discussion and/or involvement
- 19 • Safety considerations: safety message, safety officer
- 20 • Augmentation of suppression forces
- 21 • Support function: consideration given to expanded dispatch activation,  
22 initial attack dispatch staffing, and other support needs (procurement,  
23 supply, ground support, and communication)
- 24 • Support staff availability outside of fire organization
- 25 • Communication of Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions
- 26 • Fire danger/behavior assessment
- 27 • Briefings for management and fire suppression personnel
- 28 • Fire information - internal and external
- 29 • Multi-agency coordination groups/area command activation
- 30 • Prescribed fire direction and considerations
- 31 • Increased detection activities

32

### 33 **Initial Response Plans**

34

35 Initial Response plans (e.g. run cards, preplanned response, etc.) specify the  
36 response to an unplanned ignition. Based on fire weather, fuel conditions, fire  
37 management objectives, and resource availability, initial response plans identify  
38 the fire management response (e.g. number and type of suppression assets to  
39 dispatch) to an unplanned ignition.

40

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

42

43 Fire Danger Pocket Cards provide, through a graphical interpretation of daily  
44 fire danger, a means for firefighters to understand the fire potential for a given

1 local area during any day of the fire season. Interagency Pocket cards are  
2 encouraged in areas where multiple agencies share fire suppression  
3 responsibilities. Fire Danger Pocket Cards must adhere to the NWCG standard  
4 located at:

5 <http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/pocketcards/default.htm>

6

7 Compliance with the standard, including quality, currency, and application of  
8 the Pocket Card, is the responsibility of the local fire management unit.

- 9 • **BLM-** *BLM units will maintain Fire Danger Pocket Cards and ensure they*  
10 *are available to all personnel.*
- 11 • **FS-** *Obtain Regional certification for Fire Danger Pocket Cards.*  
12 *Distribute Pocket Cards to each fireline supervisor on Type 3, 4, and 5*  
13 *wildfires. Annually update and post the cards to the website referenced*  
14 *above.*

15

### 16 **Seasonal Risk Analysis**

17

18 A Seasonal Risk Analysis (SRA) requires fire managers to review current and  
19 predicted weather and fuels information, compare this information with historic  
20 weather and fuels records, and predict the upcoming fire season's severity and  
21 duration for any given area. It is important to incorporate drought indices into  
22 this assessment.

23

24 Information from a SRA can be used to modify the Annual Operating Plan  
25 (AOP), step-up and pre-attack plans. It provides the basis for actions such as  
26 repositioning critical resources, requesting additional funding, or modifying  
27 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to meet anticipated needs.

28

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

- 32 • NFDRS (or CFFDRS) index values (ERC, BI)
- 33 • Temperature levels
- 34 • Precipitation levels
- 35 • Humidity levels
- 36 • Palmer Drought or Standardized Precipitation Index
- 37 • 1000-hour fuel moisture (timber fuels)
- 38 • Vegetation moisture levels
- 39 • Live fuel moisture (brush fuels)
- 40 • Curing rate (grass fuels)
- 41 • Episodic wind events (moisture drying days)
- 42 • Unusual weather events (early severe frost)
- 43 • Fires to date

44

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

4  
5 If the SRA suggests an abnormal fire season might be anticipated, a unit should  
6 notify the state/regional office and request additional resources commensurate  
7 with the escalated risk. SRA for each geographic area are prepared, issued, and  
8 updated each year by GACC Predictive Service staffs. These analyses consider  
9 detailed information for each of the Predictive Services Areas (PSA) within the  
10 geographic area.

11  
12 Seasonal Assessment Workshops are conducted to facilitate these seasonal  
13 outlook reports. Local risk analyses should be compiled at the state/regional  
14 office to determine the predicted fire season severity within the state/region, and  
15 then forwarded to the respective national office for use in determining national  
16 fire preparedness needs. Risk analysis is ongoing. It should be reviewed  
17 periodically and revised when significant changes in key indicators occur. All  
18 reviews of seasonal risk analysis, even if no changes are made, should be  
19 documented.

20

### 21 **Fire Severity Funding**

22

23 Fire severity funding is the authorized use of suppression operations funds  
24 (normally used exclusively for suppression operations and distinct from  
25 preparedness funds) for extraordinary preparedness activities that are required  
26 due to:

- 27 • Preparedness plans (fire management plan, fire danger operating plan,  
28 annual operating plan, etc.) indicate the need for additional  
29 preparedness/suppression resources. The plan(s) should identify thresholds  
30 for severity needs.
- 31 • Anticipated fire activity will exceed the capabilities of local resources.
- 32 • Fire seasons that either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire  
33 management plan.
- 34 • An abnormal increase in fire potential or danger not planned for in existing  
35 preparedness plans.

36

37 The objective of fire severity funding is to mitigate losses by improving  
38 suppression response capability.

39

40 When suppression resources acquired through the approved fire planning  
41 process (e.g. NFMAS, IIAA, FPA) are insufficient to meet the extraordinary  
42 need, suppression resources may be requested through the severity funding  
43 process. Fire severity funding is not intended to raise preparedness funding  
44 levels to cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated  
45 and those identified in the fire planning process.

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**1 Typical Uses**

2 Severity funds are typically used to:

- 3 ● Increase prevention activities
- 4 ● Temporarily increase firefighting staffing
- 5 ● Pay for standby
- 6 ● Preposition initial attack suppression forces
- 7 ● Provide additional aerial reconnaissance
- 8 ● Provide for standby aircraft availability

9

**10 Authorization**

11 Authorization to use severity funding is provided in writing based on a written  
12 request with supporting documentation. Authorization is on a line item basis  
13 and comes with a severity cost code. Agencies will follow their administrative  
14 procedures for issuing severity cost codes. Authorization is provided for a  
15 maximum of 30 days per request; however, regardless of the length of the  
16 authorization, use of severity funding must be terminated when abnormal  
17 conditions no longer exist. If the fire severity situation extends beyond the 30  
18 day authorization, the State/Region must prepare a new severity request.

19

**20 State/Regional Level Severity Funding**

21 Each fiscal year the national office will provide each state/region with funding  
22 and a severity cost code for state/regional short-term severity needs (e.g. wind  
23 events, cold dry front passage, lightning events, and unexpected events such as  
24 off road rallies) that are expected to last less than one week. Expenditure of  
25 these funds is authorized by the state/regional directors at the written request of  
26 the agency administrator. State/regional directors are responsible and  
27 accountable for ensuring that these funds are used only to meet severity funding  
28 objectives and that amounts are not exceeded. The national office will notify the  
29 state/regional director, state/regional budget officer, and the state/regional FMO  
30 when the severity cost code is provided.

- 31 ● *FWS - Short-term severity or "step-up" cost codes are established yearly*  
32 *(at the Regional level) as PER1, PER2, etc (numeric value indicates the*  
33 *specific region utilizing short-term severity funding).*
- 34 ● *NPS - Parks have the authority to approve "Step-up" actions only, as*  
35 *defined in their fire management plan. Regional offices approve severity*  
36 *(long term - up to 30 days) for parks up to \$100,000 per severity event.*
- 37 ● *FS - Severity funding direction is found in FSM 5190.*

38

**39 National Level Severity Funding**

40 National Agency Fire Directors or their delegates are authorized to allocate fire  
41 severity funding under specific conditions stated or referenced in this chapter.  
42 Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the appropriate approving official at  
43 the written request of the state/regional director. Approved severity funding will



1 be used only for the preparedness activities and timeframes specifically outlined  
2 in the authorization, and only for the objectives stated above.

- 3 • *NPS- National office approves all requests over \$100,000.*
- 4 • *FWS- Additional information may be found on the FWS Sharepoint site.*

#### 6 **Appropriate Severity Funding Charges**

##### 8 **Labor**

9 Appropriate labor charges include:

- 10 • Regular pay for non-fire personnel
- 11 • Regular pay for seasonal/temporary fire personnel outside their normal fire  
12 funded activation period
- 13 • Overtime pay for all fire and non-fire personnel
- 14 • Severity funded personnel and resources must be available for immediate  
15 initial attack regardless of the daily task assignment
- 16 • Severity funded personnel and resources will not use a severity cost code  
17 while assigned to wildfires. The wildfire firecode number will be used.

##### 19 **Vehicles and Equipment**

- 20 • GSA lease rate and mileage
- 21 • Hourly rate or mileage for Agency owned vehicles
- 22 • Commercial rentals and contracts
  - 23 ○ *FWS – Severity-related repair and maintenance of Fish and Wildlife*  
24 *vehicles and equipment may be funded by severity because FWS does*  
25 *not have a use rate covering these charges. These charges must be*  
26 *approved by the National Office.*

##### 28 **Aviation**

29 This includes:

- 30 • Contract extensions
- 31 • The daily minimum for call when needed (CWN) aircraft
- 32 • Preposition flight time
- 33 • Support expenses necessary for severity funded aircraft (facility rentals,  
34 utilities, telephones, etc.)

##### 36 **Travel and Per Diem**

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

- 39 • Lodging
- 40 • Government provided meals (in lieu of per diem)
- 41 • Airfare (including returning to their home base)
- 42 • Privately owned vehicle mileage (with prior approval)
- 43 • Other miscellaneous travel and per diem expenses associated with the  
44 assignment

**1 Prevention Activities**

2 These include:

- 3 ● Funding Prevention Teams (Preventions teams will be mobilized as  
4 referenced in the *National Mobilization Guide*, Chapter 20)
- 5 ● Implementing local prevention campaigns, to include community risk  
6 assessment, mitigation planning, outreach, and education
- 7 ● Augmenting patrols
- 8 ● Note: Non-fire funded prevention team members should charge base 8 and  
9 overtime to the severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities  
10 assignment. Fire funded personnel should charge overtime only to the  
11 severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities assignment.

**13 Inappropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges**

- 14 ● To cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated  
15 (including rescissions) and those identified in the fire planning process
- 16 ● Administrative surcharges, indirect costs, fringe benefits
- 17 ● Equipment purchases
- 18 ● Purchase, maintenance, repair, or upgrade of vehicles
- 19 ● Purchase of radios
- 20 ● Purchase of telephones
- 21 ● Purchase of pumps, saws, and similar suppression equipment
- 22 ● Aircraft availability during contract period
- 23 ● Cache supplies which are normally available in fire caches
- 24 ● Fixed ownership rate vehicle costs
- 25 ● Equipment that has been solicited allows for use on nationwide fire  
26 suppression, all-hazard incidents and severity. Pre-season EERAs / Incident  
27 Only EERAs may not be used for severity use or hazardous fuels projects.  
28 Long term rehabilitation projects require a separate solicitation for  
29 equipment.

**31 Interagency Requests**

32 Agencies working cooperatively in the same geographic area must work  
33 together to generate and submit joint requests, to minimize duplication of  
34 required resources, reduce interagency costs and to utilize severity funded  
35 resources in an interagency manner. However, each agency should request  
36 funds only for its own agency specific needs. The joint request should be routed  
37 simultaneously through each agency's approval system, and the respective  
38 approving official will issue an authorization that specifies allocations by  
39 agency.

**41 Requesting Fire Severity Funding**

42 Each agency has established severity funding request protocols. The completed  
43 and signed request is submitted from the state/regional director to the

- 1 appropriate approving official as per the sequence of action outlined below.
- 2 Authorizations will be returned in writing.
- 3 Severity funding request information for all agencies can be found at
- 4 [www.nifc.gov/policies/severity.htm](http://www.nifc.gov/policies/severity.htm)

5

6 **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 and consolidate. 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

7

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

- 9 Fire personnel outside their normal activation period, employees whose regular
- 10 salary is not fire funded, and Administratively Determined (AD) employees
- 11 hired under an approved severity request should charge regular time and
- 12 approved non-fire overtime to the severity suppression operations subactivity
- 13 and the requesting office’s severity cost code.
- 14
- 15 Fire funded personnel should charge their regular planned salary (base-eight) to
- 16 their budgeted subactivity using their home unit’s location code. Overtime
- 17 associated with the severity request should be charged to the severity
- 18 suppression operations subactivity and the requesting office’s severity cost code.
- 19

1 Regular hours worked in suppression operations will require the use of the  
2 appropriate fire subactivity with the appropriate firecode number. Overtime in  
3 fire suppression operations will be charged to the suppression operations  
4 subactivity with the appropriate firecode number.

5

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

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 Reviews**

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.

20

#### 21 **Fire Prevention/Mitigation**

22

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

24 Agency policy requires any wildfire to be investigated to determine cause,  
25 origin, and responsibility. For all human-caused fires where responsibility and  
26 negligence can be determined, actions must be taken to recover the cost of  
27 suppression activities, land rehabilitation, and damages to the resources and  
28 improvements. Refer to Chapter 18 for additional guidance.

29

#### 30 **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Prevention**

31 Fire programs are required to fund and implement unit level Fire Prevention  
32 Plans by completing a wildland mitigation/prevention assessment. The purpose  
33 of this is to reduce undesirable human caused ignitions, to reduce damages and  
34 losses caused by unwanted wildland fires, and to reduce the suppression costs of  
35 wildland fires. As weather and fuel conditions move from average to above  
36 average or severe, and/or human activity increases, mitigation and prevention  
37 activities must be strengthened to maintain effectiveness.

38

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

- 44 • *NPS- Only units that experience more than an average of 26 human caused*  
45 *fires per ten-year period are required to develop a fire prevention plan.*

- 1 • *FS* –Refer to *FSM 5110 and 5300*.

2

3 **Professional Liability Insurance**

4

5 Public Law 110-161 provides for reimbursement for up to one half of the cost  
6 incurred for professional liability insurance (including any administrative  
7 processing cost charged by the insurance company) for temporary fire line  
8 managers, management officials, and law enforcement officers.

9

10 To qualify for reimbursement, “temporary fire line managers” must meet one of  
11 the following three criteria:

- 12 • Provide temporary supervision or management of personnel engaged in  
13 wildland fire activities;
- 14 • Provide analysis or information that affects a supervisor’s or manager’s  
15 decision about a wildland fire;
- 16 • Direct the deployment of equipment for a wildland fire, such as a base camp  
17 manager, an equipment manager, a helicopter coordinator, or an initial  
18 attack dispatcher.
- 19 ○ *DOI* – see *Personnel Bulletin No. 08-07, March 20, 2008*
- 20 ○ *FS* – refer to <http://fsweb.asc.fs.fed.us/HRM/benefits/PLI.php>