

Teton Interagency Fire

**Bridger-Teton National Forest
National Elk Refuge
Grand Teton National Park & John
D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway**



2017 Type 3, 4 & 5 Incident Commander Delegation of Authority and Expectations for all Firefighting Personnel

Initial response to any fire should be based on implementation of land management objectives, while applying risk management principles in consultation with the Line Officer and Duty Officer.

IC's shall understand Line Officer and Fire Management Officer's intent, and assure that assigned fire personnel understand this intent. IC's and assigned personnel should continually assess the effectiveness of strategies and tactics by using the Stop, Think, Talk, then Act process for meeting leaders intent and risk management/safety mitigations.

Our Intent is to engage you in discussions about acceptable levels of risk. The management of wildland fires is an inherently risky endeavor that takes place in an environment ripe with objective hazards. Undertaking operations in steep, rocky terrain; all aspects of weather conditions (cold, wet, hot, windy, stormy); in forest fuels with standing dead trees; working on, under, and near aviation operations; extended drive times; long hours; and long assignments all contribute to a hazardous environment. Our goal is to have a common understanding of what level of risk is acceptable based upon the values determined to be at risk. This is what we mean when we speak of sharing risk. Your risk analysis should carefully consider the severity, probability, and exposure components of all identified hazards. Use the Risk Management protocols outlined in the IRPG to help you and your crew in these active discussions. Higher levels of residual risk may be acceptable commensurate with the "values" identified. To put it simply, human life has a higher value to us than a stand of trees. That being said, we still manage fires burning in a stand of trees – however our decisions to accept risk after applying mitigations should and need to be different in this scenario.

The difficult decisions lie between these two options. We as Line Officers put a great deal of faith and trust in your experience. We feel that the best information regarding assessing hazards and determining mitigations comes from those closest to the operation. Our role is to lead the discussion in setting priorities among values at risk with Duty Officers and ICs.

Additionally we expect:

All firefighters will work in a professional manner to ensure appropriate representation of our agencies. Foster a learning culture and an atmosphere free of discrimination, sexual harassment and other forms of inappropriate behavior.

IC's shall ensure personnel on their incident are only assigned to fireline positions for which they are qualified as certified by their employing agency. Ensure trainees have a qualified trainer.

All incoming resources as well as those already on the fireline receive appropriate briefings. Include an emphasis on safety related to local conditions and any out of the ordinary risks.


Implementation of proper food storage policies/procedures.

IC's are responsible to update TIDC and the Duty Officer every morning and afternoon on the status of the incident. Immediate notification to TIDC will be made for any significant changes in fire behavior, conditions and all injuries or accidents.


Utilize the Incident Organizer, conduct After Action Reviews (AARs), complete required agency fire reports.

Protection of life and the safety of the public and emergency responders is the most important objective for every fire. Before Incident Commanders commit personnel they should ask:

- What will we do if someone gets hurt? If so, how do we treat and transport them?
- How long will it take to get them to a hospital?


USFS, Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Supervisor


USF&WS, National Elk Refuge
Refuge Manager


NPS, Grand Teton National Park &
John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway
Superintendent