



**FSM 2900 – INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

**CHAPTER – ZERO CODE**

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<b>New Document(s):</b>	2900_zero_code	2 Pages
<b>Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date</b>	None	

**Digest:**

2903 – Adds new direction on preventing aquatic invasive species transport during firefighting and emergency management.

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## **2903 - POLICY**

7. Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport During Firefighting and Emergency Management. In order to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, it is important that fire personnel recognize how our fire operations can prevent the transport of these species. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Invasive Species Subcommittee provides up-to-date operational guidelines, best management practices, and equipment cleaning guidance to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species during emergency and fire activities. Consult the NWCG website (<https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/invasive-species-subcommittee/publications>) to obtain these protocols. Local biologists, Resource Advisors, and fire personnel should consult with each other during the pre-season regarding known aquatic invasive species locations to facilitate incident avoidance when possible. To minimize potential transmission of aquatic invasive species, it is recommended that you:

- Consult with local biologists, Resource Advisors, and fire personnel for known aquatic invasive species locations in the area and avoid them when possible.
- Avoid entering (driving through) water bodies or wet areas when possible.
- Avoid transferring water between drainages or between unconnected waters within the same drainage when possible.
- Avoid sucking organic and bottom material into water intakes when drafting from a natural water body.
- Avoid obtaining water from multiple sources during a single operational period when possible.
- Remove all plant parts and mud from external surfaces of gear and equipment after an operational period.
- If gear contacts untreated water, consider decontaminating before moving to new drainages. Applicable gear includes helicopter buckets, snorkel ends, foot valves, and draft hoses. Water delivery equipment and accessories (e.g., fireline hoses, wye valves, nozzles) that do not transfer tank water to waterbodies do not need to be disinfected.
- For decontamination and cleaning protocols, refer to NWCG Invasive Species Subcommittee guidance (<https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/invasive-species-subcommittee/publications>). NWCG protocols emphasize hot water power washing or drying over use of chemicals. Chemical use on aviation fuselages or peripheral gear is prohibited.
- Carry spare, clean, dry helicopter buckets, draft hoses, and foot valves to switch out with used ones when moving to a new water source. Decontaminate the wet gear while spares are being used.
- Prime engine pumps with water from the drafting source (e.g., stream, lake) rather than using water from the engine tank. This minimizes the leakage of possibly contaminated engine tank water through the foot valve. Ensure footvalves are operating and not leaking. Decontamination of engine or water tender tanks with hot water or chemicals is not recommended.