

Teton Interagency Fire

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



2021 Type 3, 4 & 5 Incident Commander Delegation of Authority and Expectations for all Firefighting Personnel

Covid mitigations in 2021 will be in effect but are expected to change during the season. Fire personnel need to be aware of the guidance and practices that are in place for the time and incident you are on. For Bridger-Teton NF lands, we again have the ability to manage fire for resource benefits. Fires that have potential for resource management will be evaluated carefully for this type of response. Risk management for every fire will be conducted and operational response may be modified if hazards cannot be reasonably mitigated. Risk will also be continually mitigated for both COVID and fire response.

Initial response to wildland fire on all jurisdictions is based on implementation of land management objectives, while applying risk management principles in consultation with Agency Administrators (AA) and Fire Duty Officers (DO). IC's shall understand AA and DO intent and assure that assigned fire personnel understand the intent. IC's and assigned personnel should continually assess the effectiveness of the selected strategies and tactics; and to Stop, Think, Talk and then Act to implement the leader's intent or to apply mitigations as needed.

Our intent is to engage 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 and subjective hazards (aviation, vehicle operations, long hours, etc.). Undertaking operations in harsh terrain, severe weather, and in forests with snags, fire operations (aviation, vehicles, long hours) all contribute to the hazards. These hazards will be addressed during the risk management process and have mitigations applied to reduce the level of acceptable risk for that incident. Risk will remain and will need to be constantly assessed.

Our goal is to have a common understanding of what level of residual risk is acceptable based upon the values determined to be at risk. This is what is meant when we speak of sharing risk. Your risk analysis should carefully consider the severity, probability and exposure components of identified hazards. Use the Risk Management protocols outlined in the IRPG to help you and your crew in these active discussions. Higher levels of risk are acceptable commensurate with the values identified in the values-at-risk. Simply put, human life has a higher value than a stand of trees. That being said, we will manage fires burning in forested areas – however our decisions to accept risk after applying mitigations should and need to be different in this scenario.

Of course, difficult decisions lie between these two options. Agency Administrators put a great deal of faith and trust in fire management personnel. We feel that the best information regarding assessing hazards and determining appropriate mitigations comes from those closest to the operation. Our role is to lead the discussion in setting priorities among the values-at-risk with DO's and IC's.

We expect that all personnel 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. This includes taking pro active steps to ensure that people feel they belong to the organization.

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

Ensure that all incoming resources as well as those already on the fire receive briefings. Include an emphasis on safety related to local conditions and any out-of-the ordinary risks. Implementation of proper food storage policies/procedures will be followed.

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

Utilize the Incident Organizer, conduct AAR's and complete required agency fire reports for all fires.

Protection of life and safety of the public and emergency responders is the most important objective of every fire.

AA's, DO's and IC's will only commit resources to a fire when risk management assessments have been completed and necessary mitigations, including COVID, are in place.

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