

To: Type 3, 4, 5 Incident Commanders

From: Payette National Forest; Idaho Department of Lands; Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association; Boise and Coeur d'Alene Districts, Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Expectations and Responsibilities for Type 3, 4, and 5 Incident Commanders

The following list of expectations and responsibilities will help you in the role of Incident Commander:

- Our Fire Suppression Doctrine states "When it is time to fight fire, we do so with the highest regard for firefighter and public safety with maximum effectiveness." Our guiding principle is "No acre or structure is worth a human life." Keep these principles for safety and effectiveness in mind when fulfilling your duties as Incident Commander.
- The appropriate Duty Officer, either directly or through dispatch, will notify you of the specific wildfire management objectives and strategies.
- The appropriate Duty Officer will provide you with information regarding natural resources, threatened endangered and sensitive (TES) species, and cultural resource protection, along with any other sensitive area(s) concerns and/or constraints.
- As the initial attack or extended attack IC, you have the discretion to make decisions related to fire management tactics.
- If you determine directives given to you by the appropriate Duty Officer cannot be safely implemented, take appropriate actions to ensure the safety of your people. Immediately contact the appropriate Duty Officer to discuss your concerns and recommend other possible strategies and tactics for the incident.
- Should your fire move into extended attack with structures threatened, notify the appropriate Duty Officer of your situation, who will then notify the appropriate parties.
- Use of motorized/mechanized equipment in wilderness requires prior approval by the Forest Supervisor, qualified District Ranger, or BLM Manager. Contact Payette Interagency Dispatch Center (PAC) or the appropriate Duty Officer to make this request. In the event there is an "imminent threat to public and firefighter safety" you may deviate from this requirement. If this occurs, inform the appropriate Duty Officer or dispatch as soon as possible.
- Manage risk of exposure for all fire personnel; constantly identify and abate hazards, refuse to accept unnecessary risk, and make risk related decisions in accordance with your NWCG Incident Commander Qualification level.
- Constantly monitor the effectiveness of the planned strategy and tactics. Immediately delay, modify, or abandon firefighting action on any part of a wildland fire where strategies and tactics cannot be safely implemented. Only execute suppression actions when and where they are safe and effective.
- Keep Payette Interagency Dispatch Center (PAC) and the appropriate Duty Officer informed of the incident situation and progress.
- Contact Payette Interagency Dispatch Center or the appropriate Duty Officer before exceeding 16 hours and/or the 2:1 work/rest ratio to inform them of your intent. The District Ranger will be informed of the need to exceed work/rest guidelines as they occur.
- Do not assume any collateral duties as a Type 3 Incident Commander.
- You may be requested to manage the incident to accomplish resource objectives as defined in the Payette Land and Resource Management Plan. Be sure you clearly understand the objectives and how they may affect management of the incident.
- Ensure that performance ratings are completed on all wildland fires for all fireline personnel assigned from outside the local area, or if requested.
- Complete and document an After-Action Review (AAR) after each operational period.
- A Fire Investigator is needed for all suspected human-caused fires.
- Utilize aviation resources that are effective in controlling the fire and manage costs to be proportionate to values at risk.
- We have the utmost respect for your knowledge and professionalism. You serve an extremely important leadership role with critical responsibilities. Please understand that your actions will be supported in situations where you take actions to safeguard firefighters and the public.

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Matthew Davis Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest

Paul Wagner

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Paul Wagner, Chief Fire Warden, Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association

Scott Corkill

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Scott Corkill, Resource Area Manager, Idaho Department of Lands

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Kurt Pindel, Coeur d'Alene District Manager, BLM

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Michelle (Shelly) Lynch, Boise District Manager, BLM