



Subject: North Idaho Zone Delegation of Authority to Manage Type 3,4 & 5 Incidents for the 2025 Fire Season

To: Type 3,4 & 5 Incident Commanders

You are delegated authority to manage the suppression of Type 3, 4 or 5 incidents to which you are assigned as Incident Commander within the North Idaho Zone. The agencies with jurisdictional authority and protection responsibilities within the North Idaho Zone include the Idaho Department of Lands; Coeur d'Alene District BLM; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Nez Perce Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association, Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Our goal in this delegation is to give you a clear, concise description of our intent for how we want you to manage incidents and personnel under your control within the North Idaho Zone.

Our intent:

- We expect you to manage fires safely, effectively, and efficiently as possible, consistent with your level of training, experience, and qualifications. At all times the health and safety of firefighters and the public must be your primary objective.
- Maintain command and control of all resources assigned to your incident, review the span of control and ensure that the complexity of the incident is within your qualification level. This includes providing complete briefings to the assigned resources on your incident.
- The fire environment is a complex environment. We expect you to be aware of these complexities and give clear Leaders Intent to assigned resources to ensure they understand the "Task, Purpose, and End State" behind the tactics they are being asked to implement before aggressively engaging the fire. There will be times when a fire exceeds your training, qualifications, experience, or available resources. Effective firefighting can still happen, even if only to create and hold a safe anchor point until conditions improve or more resources arrive. Work with the appropriate duty officer(s) and/or Interagency Dispatch Centers to order the appropriate qualified personnel. Utilize the Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and Complexity Analysis to determine appropriate incident complexity.
- Be aggressive implementing tactics that are necessary and have a high probability of success. Identify the Prioritized Values at Risk and use good Risk Management when deciding to engage firefighters.
- There are rules, standards, and policies that govern our work as firefighters and as agency employees. We expect you to be familiar with these fundamentals and policies for each agency, including policies regarding work rest ratios, timekeeping, procurement, fitness standards, training, qualifications, heavy equipment use, aviation, and fire management in wilderness areas. It's important that proper record keeping is completed from Initial Attack all the way through the incident being called out.
- Ensure firefighting personnel are mindful of the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders, that LCES is established, and that the applicable *18 Situations that Shout Watchout* are identified and mitigated during suppression operations.

- **Medical Evacuation Plan** - All incidents, no matter how small need have an Incident within and Incident (IWI) medical evacuation plan. It should be known to all resources on the incident.
- **Aviation Resources:** As with ground resources, aviation resources must be managed by the IC in an effective and efficient manner. We will not transfer unnecessary risk to pilots, and we need to make sure their missions are critical to the overall success of the incident.
- While you are managing the incident, you will create a work environment that ensures people are treated with dignity and respect.

For Type 3 incidents, this is only an initial Delegation of Authority; more direction will follow as the situation dictates. This delegation is effective until replaced by the delegation for 2026.

An Incident Commander is a position held in trust by Agency Administrators who delegate the critical responsibility of this job to you, by the public whose resources and interests you are helping to protect, and most of all, by your fellow firefighters whose safety is largely dependent on how you carry out this responsibility.

If you have questions, please ask. Thank you for taking on this responsibility.

X

Tim Gilloon
Forest Supervisor / Idaho Panhandle N.F.

X

Richard Ferguson
Superintendent / BIA - Northern Idaho Agency

X

Kurt Pindell
District Manager / Coeur d'Alene District BLM

X

Josh Harvey
Fire Bureau Chief / IDL

X

M. Kane Steinbruecker
Chief Fire Warden / CPTPA

X

Jonathan Word
Forest Supervisor / Nez Perce Clearwater N.F.

X

Kelly Moroney
Refuge Manager / US Fish and Wildlife Service