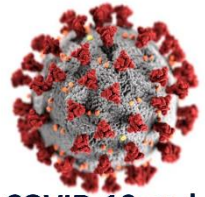


Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Coronavirus Guidelines
Clarification for the Fireline
and Fire Camp



**COVID-19 and
Fire Season 2020 Lessons**
For the latest on COVID-19 visit
[CDC.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)



What Does ‘Module as One’ Actually Mean? and Other Coronavirus Guideline Clarifications for the Fireline and Fire Camp

Misunderstandings seem to exist among fire crews for what the term “Module as One” actually means—as well as other practices that firefighters should now be observing and implementing out on the fireline and in fire camp.

Dr. Jennifer Symonds, Fire and Aviation Management Medical Officer with the U.S. Forest Service, has therefore spelled out the following helpful clarification sideboards for navigating in our current potential coronavirus environment:

1. “Module as one” is the same as “module as a crew/family.” It does not mean to actually module as an individual. There is no crew hopping and crews should not be divided into smaller units to isolate.
2. For the entire season, the same people travel in the same vehicle with the same other people—no need for physical distancing of crew members that are moduling together. No vehicle hopping—except in an emergency.
3. Travel with windows cracked/open to maximize ventilation but do not wear masks/face coverings in a vehicle in which the occupants are your module.
4. On a fireline, the fire is the focus but try not to co-mingle close (less than 6 feet apart) to other crews if it is avoidable. Obviously, in a medical incident you may not be able to stay beyond 6 feet. Risk of transmission of coronavirus out in the open air is exquisitely low.
5. Only wear bandanas/face coverings on a fireline if you would have done that normally last year.

6. In camp, coronavirus is the focus. Use face coverings and physical distancing around those not in your module!
7. Supervisors/leaders need to have a heart-to-heart talk with employees about after-hours extracurricular exposure risk and its potential effect on the crew while working the season. Line Officers need to have a discussion with non-fire employees about ensuring the health and safety of fire crews and the importance of physical distancing and face coverings around fire crews to not increase exposure to coronavirus in either direction.
8. If you are not able to Module as One (e.g. ADs, militia crews, thrown-together crews), then follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for face coverings and physical distancing as best you can. For permanent fire employees that go home at night, if it is possible to stay with your crew, this year would be the preferred path. But if you're not able to do this, then face coverings and physical distancing will be important both at home as well as when at work.

***For more considerations and recommendations from the CDC
regarding wildland firefighting please visit:***

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/wildland-firefighters-faq.html>

**This RLS was submitted by:
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For questions about this RLS, [click here](#).

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