




United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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MAR 24 2020

To: Regional Directors  
Attn: Regional Chief Rangers and Regional Fire Management Officers

From: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection   
(ACTING)

Subject: Interim Guidance on Wildland Firefighter, All Hazard, Aviation and Structural Firefighter Responder Qualifications

The unfolding national emergency requires we evaluate and modify our current policies and processes on ensuring qualification of various emergency responders within the National Park Service (NPS). This memo serves as agency specific direction for all hazard, aviation, and structural fire responders. It also provides additional guidance to the attached wildland fire memo issued by the Interagency Fire Management Board (FMB) with the subject line: *Adjustments to Wildland Fire Preparedness Activities for the 2020 Fire Year in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*, hereafter referred to as the FMB memo.

**Wildland Fire:**

NPS guidance on wildland fire incident qualification card (red card) expiration date is found on page 283 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Guide, 2020 (aka Red Book). That language is superseded by this memo, which is effective as of memo signature date and will remain in effect until further notice is given.

The process for extending incident qualification card fitness date (work capacity test) is identified in the attached FMB memo. Units that have already conducted a wildland fire refresher or work capacity test are compliant into 2021.

The NPS is extending all annual fireline safety refresher training (RT-130) with expiration dates one year from the 2020 date shown on the individual's current incident qualification card (red card). The annual requirement to demonstrate proficiency in fire shelter deployment is waived for returning firefighters. Specific information and recommendations are also found in the FMB memo. If a unit chooses to conduct a refresher, those dates should be entered into the incident qualification and certification system (IQCS) as usual.

NPS units should use the [Blended Course Work](#) for training new firefighters. Use the forthcoming 2020 national wildfire coordinating group (NWCG) guidance regarding fire shelter training and decontamination of practice fire shelters for new firefighters.

The [Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program \(DOI WLFF MSP\)](#) is a critical component of the medical qualification process for arduous duty wildland firefighters. Initial guidance is

found in the attached FMB memo, however, the NPS is providing this additional guidance for clarification:

1. New employees or returning employees that have not had a physical exam or completed a self-cert in the last two years (2018 and 2019) because they have not been arduous duty and/or were not in the Department of Interior (DOI), must complete a periodic exam as a condition of hire.
2. New hires from any DOI agency who are current in their medical qualification per the CHSi Client Access System (CAS) will follow the guidance below.
3. Arduous duty wildland fire responders due for a self-certification in the CAS system should carry out that self-certification as normal.
4. The 3-year (36-month) periodicity requirement for all exams expiring in 2020 is extended until December 31, 2020. Firefighters who were previously *Qualified* or *Qualified with Risk Mitigation* or *Waiver* that are due for a periodic exam may choose to complete a self-certification in lieu of completing a periodic exam. Upon expiration of the interim policy firefighters shall come back into compliance with exam periodicity.
5. Anyone who is determined to be not qualified from the group described in #1 will follow the normal procedures to receive medical clearance. This may result in delays beyond the thirty-day requirement to complete a risk mitigation due to doctor's offices being closed. The thirty-day requirement will be suspended, all outstanding risk mitigations must be completed by December 31, 2020. Employees who are not cleared either through their exam, self-cert or via a risk mitigation/waiver will not be able to perform in an arduous capacity.
6. Employees using the self-certification process must be currently medically qualified.
7. Wildland Fire Management Program will continue to accept Law Enforcement Program medical determinations.

Employees in the light and moderate fitness category will follow the Light or Moderate Duty Medical Screening Process found in the [Light/Moderate tab](#) of the DOI MSP website.

All questions regarding the DOI WLFF MSP process, refresher training or work capacity testing for wildland firefighters should be addressed to [Miranda\\_Stuart@nps.gov](mailto:Miranda_Stuart@nps.gov), 850-728-8200.

**All Hazard:**

NPS All Hazard is extending the work capacity test (WCT) expiration dates one year from the 2020 expiration date shown on the red card. Questions regarding all hazard medical qualification or work capacity testing should be addressed to [Andrew\\_Hower@nps.gov](mailto:Andrew_Hower@nps.gov), 202-513-7093.

**Aviation:**

The aviation managers within DOI and the U.S. Forest Service are actively planning mitigation measures for required training. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group, National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) will serve as the lead for developing a consistent standard across bureaus. The plan, once finalized, will be communicated via FMB. Questions regarding aviation should be addressed to [John\\_Buehler@nps.gov](mailto:John_Buehler@nps.gov), 208-387-5227.

**Structural Fire:**

Structure fire will follow WLFF guidance for arduous duty qualifications. Questions regarding structure fire should be addressed to [Michael\\_Schell@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Schell@nps.gov), 208-387-5786.

Att: FMB Memorandum No. 20-001: *Adjustments to Wildland Fire Preparedness Activities for the 2020 Fire Year in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*

Cc: Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation  
Chief, Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services  
Chief, Office of Risk Management