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Date: April 21, 2015

Subject: Delegation of Authority, ICT3, ICT4 and ICT5

To: Type 3, 4 and 5 Incident Commanders

As the responsible line officers for the Ranger Districts of the Eldorado National Forest, we wish to share with you our expectations for the 2015 Wildland Fire Season. As an Incident Commander, you are an important asset to assure the Forest's safe, effective and efficient management of wildfire incidents. We require you to promote and expect appropriate behavior based on duty, respect and integrity for all incident personnel. You will act within agency policy and the intent of this letter.

Expect an early fire season with large fire potential as a result of a four year drought and the driest January-March in modern history. This will require a heightened situational awareness. It is important that we have a strategic aggressive initial attack, manage risk to promote safety, and communicate through all levels of the agency and fire organization.

Wildland fire operations will give priority to human safety while considering the protection of Forest natural, cultural and infrastructure resource values. Plan and implement operational actions based on strategic and operational risk assessments that maximize opportunities for success and enable firefighters to engage effectively. Keep cooperators involved with strategic development and ensure a common operating picture exists.

Risk is present at all levels, from Line Officers through Incident Commanders to module leaders and crewmembers. It is ongoing and evolving. We expect direct communication and open dialogue regarding risk of operations. Risk will be known, accepted, and shared. We will work together to deliver a clear message. Assessing/evaluating the amount of risk, and how acceptable the risk is — involves human judgement. We rely on your effort and expertise to identify necessary risks and mitigate them to acceptable levels in all actions. This will require continual adaptation to preserve and increase the safety of our firefighters.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the Forest as an Incident Commander. We hereby delegate you authority for management of wildfire suppression activities within the scope of your skills, abilities and qualifications on the District for Type 3, 4, 5 Incidents.






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