SCOPE

Dispatchers are normally the first persons to receive requests for search and rescue or other non-fire emergency assistance and the requests often come after the requesting parties request immediate answers. This chapter provides some guidelines concerning Forest Service, National Park Service, and US Fish & Wildlife Service policy in these matters.

Most requests for non-fire incident assistance are first cleared through the appropriate agency's Regional Coordinator prior to mobilization.
When responding to non-fire incidents; generally, the guidelines listed below will be followed:

- Non-fire emergencies and events are typically addressed in the unit's emergency response plans. These plans are available through each unit's Forest/Job Corp Safety Manager.
- Except in cases of threat to human lives, fire is the priority when in competition for resources.
- Fiscal accountability, payment of base and/or overtime salary and any interagency reimbursement procedures must be agreed to by all parties prior to, or as soon as possible after the initial response to the incident. Payments are to be authorized via reimbursable agreements or letters of authorization to expend agency funds. FireCode is not used for all hazard incidents.
- Specific agency limits of authority (e.g., law enforcement authority on non-Federal lands, Emergency Medical Technician authority outside of their home state, etc.) must be addressed prior to mobilization of these personnel.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Primarily, the protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order within the territorial jurisdiction of any state are responsibilities of state and local authorities. In some states, the basic law places responsibility for protection of life and property and search for lost persons on the sheriffs of the respective counties; in other states, the state highway patrols have the responsibility to assist during emergencies involving protection of life and property. For the land area of the United States, the Air Rescue Service of the Air Force is charged with the responsibility of providing search, survival aid, and rescue of passengers and crew of missing and/or crashed aircraft in accidents that do not occur in the proximity of air bases. This responsibility applies to all aircraft--civil as well as military.

FOREST SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Inside and outside the National Forests, as a humanitarian measure, the use of Forest Service personnel and equipment is authorized for the purpose of protecting life and property and for relieving suffering and distress arising from such causes as floods, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, and snowstorms, but not from lightning strikes. However, when employees are requested to assist, they are expected to operate within the scope of their training. 5 AR 595 provides that "...Except in emergencies threatening loss of life or property, or as may be authorized by law, Department property shall not be used for any purpose other than in the performance of work of the Department..."

The Regional Forester should be notified promptly of any extraordinary expenditure of obligation of funds or use of personnel or equipment. Obligations incurred should be considered as payable out of currently available funds only, without expectation of reimbursement. Please refer to the Region 8 All Hazard Response Guide. Costs for some HAZMAT cleanups are recoverable through the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). Coordinate with the Regional HAZMAT Coordinator for guidance.

COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES

Inside National Forest boundaries, the Forest Service has specific authority to act in case of need for emergency assistance to persons lost, seriously ill, or injured; but this does not preclude cooperation under Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with other land management agencies. Because there are so many different agencies involved in rescue work, centralized nationwide operating arrangements are neither practical nor desirable. Memorandums of Understanding involving search and rescue should, accordingly, be made at the regional level or, where National Forests are widely separated, at the forest level with guidance by the region.

Any such cooperative work that the Forest Service does, either with or without reimbursement to or from other agencies, should be under advance MOU's with those agencies.

AUTHORIZATION TO ACT ON REQUEST OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

The Forest Service has authority (at the request of another federal agency) to perform for the agency whatever assistance it is equipped to render regardless of location, with either advance of funds or reimbursement under Section 601 of the Economy Act of June 30, 1982 (3l U.S.C. 686). Where such requests are anticipated, it is desirable to have Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the responsible federal agency as to any action to be taken by the Forest Service. MOU's should be developed with Regional Office assistance.

The USDA Forest Service and the Department of Interior have primary and support responsibilities under the Federal Response Plan (FRP) during presidential declared disasters. Refer to Section 15.1 of this mobilization guide for more information.

LOST, ILL, INJURED, OR DECEASED PERSONS

The Forest Service recognizes its public duty to render assistance in cases involving persons lost, injured or who succumb to their injuries in the National Forests. This includes rendering aid or transporting persons seriously ill/injured to EMS, local authorities, or other interested parties. Location sites of the deceased will be secured until authorities have completed their investigation.

Section 3 of the Act of May 27, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 575) authorizes the payment of necessary expenses to effectuate this policy. This authorization is limited to those cases where the person's condition necessitates prompt removal to a place where medical attention and care are available; and the situation could only be rectified through action of the Forest Service. The authorization does not contemplate expenditures from Forest Service funds in ordinary cases of illness, etc., of persons who at the time are inside a National Forest. Similarly, Forest Service funds should be expended for removal of the body of a deceased person only when it is impractical to arrange for its prompt removal by or at the expense of relatives or other interested persons or local authorities. In the event of minor accidents, particularly where there appears to be no immediate danger to life or health, incidental help, information, advice, or relaying requests for assistance may be given by the Forest Service; but usually the person or persons involved, if able, should make their arrangements for relief, medical attention, or repair. Usually relatives, friends, local authorities, and other interested persons or agencies cooperate voluntarily in defraying necessary expenses.

R-8 PAYMENTS POLICY

Salaries and travel expenses of personnel assigned to the relief or assistance job will be paid from their normal general account. Other expenses incurred will be paid from National Forest Protection and Management (P&M) funds. Forests or other units should handle the payment of expenses for this emergency work. At the time of the financial review, if a forest finds they cannot absorb these additional expenses, they should request a supplemental fund allocation. Requests should be made to the Regional Budget Officer accompanied by justification of need.

NATURAL DISASTERS PLANS

The Regional Forester's Emergency and Major Disaster Plan for Natural Disaster in the Southern Region (May 1979) is found in the All Hazard Response Guide. In addition, individual forests and districts as well as each unit's Forest/Job Corp Safety Manager may have local disaster plans (for example: plans to prepare and respond to tropical storms and hurricanes).

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS

The "Safety and Health Program Handbook" (FSM 6709.12) establishes notification requirements for hazardous materials accidents. This normally will be the responsibility of the Forest Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Coordinator. In many cases, the forest dispatcher will receive the initial communication from the field and will need to follow up on this information. Each dispatch/coordination center should have a list of actions to be taken in the event that a hazardous material accident is reported. This should be developed by the Forest Occupational Safety and Health Officer, HAZMAT Coordinator and the local dispatch office. A sample plan follows.

NOTE: Offer information to first responders from the "orange book" ("Emergency Response Guidebook" DOT 5800).

SAMPLE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL PLAN

- Receive and log the information that is reported.

- Dispatch public safety units as appropriate:

UNIT	PHONE NUMBER
Medical	
Ambulance	
Law Enforcement	
State Troopers	
Sheriff Department	
Police Department	
Other	

- **Notify appropriate line officer:**

NAME	TITLE	OFFICE PHONE	HOME PHONE
	District Ranger		
	District Ranger		
	Forest Supervisor		

- **Notify Forest HAZMAT Coordinator:**

NAME	OFFICE PHONE	HOME PHONE

CHECKLIST OF ACTIONS IN EMERGENCY CASES (SERIOUS ACCIDENT OR DEATH).

- Request local emergency response (follows unit emergency response plans and job aids).
- Follow direction in agency Death and Serious Injury Handbook, Agency Administrator's Guide, You Will Not Stand-Alone Guide, Unplanned Event Job Aid, and other applicable resources.
- Notify the SACC Center Manager. He or she will notify all appropriate RO emergency contacts.
- Notify County Sheriff's office and State Police. (Arrange with them for a coroner in case of a death.)
- See that information officer is designated. Information Officer will interact with the press and ensure that only reliable information is released. No names will be released until next of kin has been notified.
- Instruct lookouts (or other key positions) to remain on duty as necessary.

- Notify next of kin as soon as reliable information is available. Information Officer will handle this. If off forest personnel are involved, the home forest or region should be called on to do the actual notifying of next of kin. Be sure to request them to let Ranger District or forest know as soon as next of kin have been notified so a statement can be given to the press.

MANDATORY FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS

Region 8 has implemented a new process for Forests to notify the Regional Forester Team (RFT) of situations which may be considered significant, high profile, problematic, or have potential to become such. A Region 8 *Notification of Significant Incident* Form is located in the Unplanned Event Job Aid and on the Southern Region intranet, and should be used for the following incidents/events:

- Death or significant injury to employee (i.e. hospitalization)
- Significant safety events (i.e. reportable accidents, incidents, mishaps, situations, etc.)
- Use of firearms or weapons and/or threats of such
- Violence, violent behavior, or threats to harm self or others
- Effects from natural disasters (i.e. hurricanes, floods, landslides, etc.)
- Other incidents that Forest Leadership considers significant or appropriate to report (e.g. events impacting community or local citizens, events involving media coverage, etc.)

Notify the regional office, as stated in FSM 6732.12, immediately, when these conditions exist in addition to those identified in the parent text:

- Employees who are injured and requires five (5) or more days of hospitalization.
- The Forest Service was involved, and a private citizen was killed or is likely to die.
- All damage to government property (leased, owned, rented, or borrowed) in excess of $1,000, excluding forest fire.
- Indication of gross negligence or misconduct on the part of an employee involved in any third-party accident.
- Evidence or indication that drugs, including alcohol, were in use or were contributing factors in an accident involving an employee.
- Minor aircraft accident.
- Fatalities from suspected natural causes when the employee was on the job or in travel status.
- The regional office emergency contact is responsible for notifying the Washington Office in accordance with parent text FSM 6732.12.
- A release of a hazardous material (including pesticides) into the environment should be reported to the Region 8 spill HAZMAT coordinator within 24 hours. This individual will determine if a “reportable quantity” has been released and must be reported to the National Response Center.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT NAME	CONTACT TITLE	OFFICE PHONE	CELL
Mark Eaton	Regional Safety Manager	404-347-7781	850-570-9091
Joel Ortiz	R8 RO HAZMAT Coordinator	404-347-2470	715-864-7674
Wallace Dillon	R8 BAER Coordinator; 2nd Alternate HAZMAT Coordinator	404-347-3849	470-725-7132
Mary Morris	Deputy RF – Operations	404-347-4177	404-275-6606
Frank Beum	Deputy RF – Natural Resources	404-347-2369	404-272-9413

For after-hours telephone numbers, please see Chapter 70 "USFS Southern Regional Office" directory or contact SACC.

The unit making the initial notification report should include items listed in parent text FSM 6732.12, 2. However, notification should not be delayed if all of the information is not available.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

For critical incidents where a fatality occurs, the Washington Office (WO) will take the lead in assigning a Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) Team – which is a Chief's level review. Procedures will follow those listed in the CRP Guide.

For non-fatality critical incidents involving serious injury, the local unit is responsible for implementing their Unit Emergency Response Plans. Investigations are typically led by agency Law Enforcement & Investigations (LE&I). Unit leadership typically requests assistance to help assemble a

Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) team. The R8 Fire Risk Management Officer and Regional Safety Manager will assist with assembling the team.

The US Forest Service has undergone a paradigm shift in how it approaches accident investigations. Rather than utilizing previous causality investigation methods, the USFS now focuses on learning and sense making. A far greater emphasis is now placed on why things made sense to the participants at the time, and what can be learned and shared to avoid these events from occurring again. It assumes that, in most cases, those involved did not intend for these events to occur. This approach requires a just, reporting, and learning safety culture that the agency has worked to promote.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities and procedures for non-fire emergencies are outlined in the Emergency Operations Plan for each National Park Service Region. The following are excerpts from the NPS Inter Regions 1, 2, and 4 Office Plan.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Level 1 incident is to be telephoned immediately to the Emergency Incident Coordination Center (EICC) Dispatch at 1-888-246-4335 or 304-535-4040 and to the NPS Interior Regions 1, 2, and 4 Branch Chief of Law Enforcement or the Chief of Ranger activities. All reportable incidents are to be reported (including Level 1 telephone reports) utilizing the Serious Incident Reporting (SIR) form located at https://sites.google.com/a/nps.gov/leses/es/eicc/sir.

Special Event Teams
Special Event Team Commander: Robert Leonard

In the case of a special event which requires a Special Events Team (SET), and time permits, the park superintendent must submit a written request to the Chief of Ranger Activities explaining the need for the request and outlining the number and type of resources needed and estimated cost. The authority for activating a SET can only be granted by the regional director or his designee. If time does not permit a written request, or for guidance in determining if a SET Team is needed, contact Robert Leonard at 912-261-3762 or mobile number 912-253-1908.

SEARCH AND RESCUE
Refer to Appendix C of this chapter.
"Advise the NPS Interior Regions 1,2, and 4 Branch Chief of Emergency Services when a search and/or rescue appears that it will go into a second day. Requests for assistance should first be made to the Regional ESC. The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator may obtain resources through the appropriate State Interagency Coordination Center or SACC.

CHEMICAL SPILLS (OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS)

Contact for Resources
Southeast Region or WASO Coordinator listed below.
Reporting

All oil spills, hazardous chemical releases, pipeline accidents, transportation accidents involving hazardous material or oil, releases of radioactive materials, and releases of etiological or hazardous biological materials must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center immediately (1-800-424-8802). Refer to www.nrc.uscg.mil on the internet for updated information on the National Response Center. The U.S. Coast Guard or the Environmental Protection Agency will respond with or designate an On-Scene Coordinator who will ensure that proper action is being taken to minimize the impact and clean up the spill. Advise the Southeast Regional Oil Spill and Hazardous Materials Coordinator after ensuring that the National Response Center has been notified. The Southeast Regional Oil Spill and Hazardous Materials Coordinator will ensure the WASO Coordinator is notified. Parks should be prepared to assist the On-Scene Coordinator with logistics and information about sensitive park resources. Park staff should not participate directly in cleanup activities unless trained and certified in handling hazardous materials. The Park is to document the effect of the spill on park resources, operations, and visitor services. Also document the amount of staff time directed towards the incident.

Southeast Region Coordinators
NPS Southeast Region Oil Spill and Hazardous Material Coordinator – Brian Cook Office: 404-507-5727 Cell: 404-769-8665
NPS Southeast Regional Chief Ranger –Scott Larson Office: 404-507-5742 Cell: 770-359-7238
WASO Coordinator – Dave Anderson Office: 202-513-7168 Cell: 240-205-3203

PUBLIC HEALTH

When a Public Health Emergency arises, call the Regional Public Health Service Consultant.

OTHER EMERGENCIES

"Reporting and mobilization of resources for other emergencies will be as outlined within the current NPS Interior Regions 1, 2, and 4 Operations Plan. For natural disaster or other all-hazard emergencies, contact: Scott Larson, NPS Interior Regions 1, 2, and 4 Chief Ranger; or Jeff Brice (Assistant Area Coordinator (NPS) – SACC)."

MANDATORY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS

NPS units should notify the Regional Fire Management Office under the following circumstances:

Action was taken on a fire and a request will be made for regional funding

Wildland fire results in an injury or a structure/dwelling is damaged or destroyed

Assistance from a cooperating agency was incurred

NPS Southeast Region Emergency Services Coordinator - will be notified for all SAR, SCUBA, EMS, and natural disasters occurrences.

Southeast Regional Office Incident Reporting Procedures
The Regional Chief of Law Enforcement should be notified of Level 1 incidents by telephone and should be sent a copy of cc reports for both Level 1 and 2 incidents. Refer to Southeast Regional Office Emergency Operations Plan

Scott Larson – NPS Interior Regions 1, 2, and 4 Chief of Law Enforcement Office: 404-507-5742 Cell: 770-359-7238

For after-hours telephone numbers, please see Chapter 70 "NPS Southeast Regional
Office," or contact SACC.

LEVEL 1 – High Priority Incidents

Employee Fatality/Injury/Illness: Any fatality or life-threatening injury/illness (on duty) of a current NPS employee, including volunteers and contractors.
Employee Hospitalization: Any on-duty injury/illness requiring hospitalization.
Multiple Employee Injuries: Emergency medical treatment of three or more NPS employees in any incident
Multiple Non-Employee Fatalities from Unusual Circumstances: Fatalities from non-routine incidents (automobile collisions, boating collisions, etc., are routine) involving more than three non-employees.
Property Damage: Property damage to government or personal property greater than approximately $100,000 from any incident.
Major Crimes: Murder, manslaughter, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, burglary with loss greater than $25,000, structural arson, wildland arson greater than 10 acres, major weapons offenses (multiple weapon-related felonies), hostage or barricade situations, kidnapping, or confirmed missing persons where foul play is suspected
Drug Crimes: Drug seizures or arrests that could attract media or political attention due to the circumstances, value, or the amount of the seizure. The use of NPS lands for the smuggling of people or drugs.
Government Officials: Serious incidents, accidents, or major events involving senior officials of State, federal or foreign governments, those with diplomatic, political, or government ties, or their immediate families.
International Incidents: Incidents affecting international cooperation, relations, or disputes.
National Security: Planned, attempted, or actual terrorist attacks; sabotage or other hostile acts against the United States, including the NPS or any other federal bureau; or observations of any act, incident, or suspicious activity that might have national security implications.

SET: Any event that requires the deployment of SET.
Incident Management Team: Any event that requires deployment of an Incident Management Team (IMT) out of their region
Disasters: Natural or man-caused disasters that cause significant injuries or resource or property damage, or have significant impacts on visitor use of an NPS-administered area, including structural fires, floods, wind events, rockslides, storms, dam failures, earthquakes, volcanic activity, etc.
Firearm Discharge: The discharge of a firearm by any employee toward another individual, any discharge of a firearm at any employee, or any on-duty or duty-related unintentional firearm discharge by a commissioned employee.
Aircraft Accident: Any aircraft accident causing a death or injury requiring hospitalization.
Use of Force Causing Injury: Any use of force by a law enforcement officer that results in death or serious injury to another individual, or any hospitalization of greater than eight hours.
Any canine deployment that results in a bite.
Assault on Employee: Any assault or attack on any NPS employee, duty-related or not.
Hazmat Incident: Any hazardous chemical spill, leak, fire, exposure, or incident. After notifying the EICC, call the National Response Center (800-424-8802) for all hazmat releases or oil spills.
Wildlife or Vegetation Die-Off: Unexpected or unnaturally high mortality to large numbers of animals or plants. Serious Incident Notification Requirements and Procedures Chapter 36: Serious Incident Notification Requirements and Procedures Chapter 36: Serious Incident Notification Requirements and Procedures 400 RM-9 2015 R.
Arrest of Senior NPS Officials: Superintendent and Deputies, Regional Directors and Deputies, or any SES employee.
Arrest of Commissioned Employee: The arrest of any commissioned employee or manager/administrator of a law enforcement program.
Theft or loss of law enforcement credentials, shields, or weapons.
Demonstrations: Demonstrations or hostile acts (planned, purported, or actual) in or adjacent to parks that may draw significant national or regional media attention, or hamper park operations.
National Media Attention: Events that have the potential to result in national media interest.

LEVEL 2 – Normal Priority Reporting

All incidents under these criteria are to be reported to WASO Ranger Activities via hard copy mail within three working days of the incident's occurrence along with a carbon copy to NPS Regional Law Enforcement Specialist.

Non-employee Fatalities: Visitor or public fatalities, except by natural causes. Heart attacks are not reportable incidents unless they involve other reporting criteria.
Employee Arrest: Arrest or detention of any non-commissioned NPS employee or senior NPS official on felony charges, regardless of arresting or detaining agency. Misdemeanor arrests should be reported in cases of local media attention or exceptional circumstances.
Cultural Resource Theft/Depredation: Any significant incident of lost, stolen, looted, vandalized, damaged, or destroyed historical, archeological, ethnographic, museum, or NAGPRA related structures, items, and/or resources.
Natural Resource Theft/Depredation: Any significant incident in which animals, plants, minerals, paleontological items, or other natural resources are poached, stolen, destroyed, or otherwise lost or damaged, including any felony cases.
Drug Incidents: Drug seizures in which the value of the drugs exceeds $5,000, or major drug cases that are investigated by other agencies, but which were either initiated by the NPS or in which the NPS assisted.
Demonstrations: Demonstrations or hostile acts (planned, purported, or actual) either in or adjacent to parks.
Theft and Burglary: Monetary losses in excess of $10,000 through theft or burglary.
Search and Rescue: Major searches and/or rescues, generally defined as any SAR that requires a significant number of resources or that is prolonged or difficult.
Structural Fires: Structural fires involving any NPS-owned property. Structural fires should also be reported to the Structural Fire Program via the Structural Fire Incident Report System on Inside NPS.
Special Events: Any event that attracts substantial media attention, and/or has particular relevance to the National Park System or Service and its cultural, historical, and natural assets.
Multiple Injuries/Illness: In-patient hospitalization of three or more non-NPS personnel in any single incident.
Wildlife Incidents: Wildlife attacks or incidents that result in death or cause serious injury and/or lead to overnight hospitalization.
Public Health Incidents: Incidents in which an above average number of visitors, employees, or volunteers have similar symptoms or illnesses.
Attempted suicides.
Service of high-risk warrants.

Special Events: Any event in a park which requires significant mobilization of resources, attracts substantial media attention, and/or has particular relevance to the National Park System or Service or its cultural, historical and natural assets. For purposes of this reporting system, serious injuries are defined as those that require advanced life support and/or lead to overnight hospitalization.

Report Contents

All reports should contain the following information, in so far as the solicited information is known and available:

Subject	Name or Description of Incident
Time and Date	Time and date of occurrence.
Location	Brief description of incident location.
Summary	Brief description of incident.
Names/Titles	Names and titles of persons involved if appropriate.
Status of Case	What's being done and/or will be done next.
Agencies	Other federal, state, local or other agencies involved or to become involved in the incident.
Media	The level of media interest and involvement.
Submitter	Name and title of person submitting report, which should appear on the report itself
Contact	Name and telephone number of the park person who can be contacted for additional information, or a 24-hour contact number.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Serious incidents are to be telephoned immediately to Southeast Regional Chief, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, Acting Chief Vic Coffman, cell# 601-397-0270. All reportable incidents are to be reported via telephone and a follow-up email to Vic_Coffman@fws.gov. Alternate contact is Southeast Region, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement Acting Deputy Chief Bruce Butler, cell#904-775-8314, email bruce_butler@fws.gov.

What is a serious incident? A serious incident is a law enforcement incident, emergency condition, unusual event, or homeland security concern that could focus public interest on the Department or the Service or result in inquiries to the Secretary of the Interior or the Director.

The Chief, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement (DRLE):

(1) Has primary responsibility for ensuring that serious incidents are reported to the Director, other Service officials, respective Regional Law Enforcement Chiefs, and the IOC;

(2) Develops and revises procedures for reporting serious incidents;
(3) Supervises the Service Duty Officer(s); and
(4) Provides the Directorate with summary information about serious incidents

A. Serious incidents service wide: Table 1-2 summarizes the types of serious incidents you must report for information on how and when).

Table 1-2: Serious Incidents to Report to the Service Duty Officer

Type of Incident	Description
1. Employee death or serious injury	Death, life-threatening injury, or hospitalization of an employee that occurs while performing official duties.
2. Other death	Death of a person that occurs on Service property.
3. Criminal incidents	☐ Terrorist threats or activity (including significant vandalism or hostile acts against people or property). ☐ Theft or loss of explosives or explosives materials. ☐ Threats to employees. ☐ Assaults to employees. ☐ Bomb threats. ☐ Discharge of a firearm when associated with a crime against a person. ☐ Demonstrations involving civil disobedience. ☐ Hostage or barricade situations.

Table 1-2: Serious Incidents to Report to the Service Duty Officer	
Type of Incident	**Description**
	☐ Detention facility incidents resulting in serious bodily injury or death. ☐ Significant border incidents requiring the deployment of law enforcement personnel (see Table 1-4 for specifics about the Southwest Border). ☐ Kidnappings. ☐ Hate crimes involving violent acts. ☐ Vehicle pursuits involving significant property damage, serious bodily injury, or death. ☐ Suspicious people or packages where extraordinary action by law enforcement personnel is necessary. ☐ Critical missing people or Amber Alerts. ☐ Arsons of a significant nature. ☐ Significant environmental crimes or Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) violations on Service lands. ☐ Crimes that might result in significant media or political attention. ☐ Theft of aircraft from lands under the jurisdiction of the Service or theft of aircraft owned, operated, or under the operational control of the Service (regardless of who owns the land). ☐ Theft of Service badges, credentials, uniforms, vehicles, license plates, or other official Service insignia. ☐ Theft of Service-issued firearms. ☐ Drug seizures meeting or exceeding the following thresholds: o Methamphetamine (1 pound) o Marijuana plants (1,000 plants) o Processed marijuana (500 pounds) o Cocaine (1 pound) o Heroin (1 pound) o LSD (100 doses) o Psilocybin mushrooms (1 pound) o “Club Drugs” (e.g., MDMA, Rohypnol, GHB, Ketamine) (100 doses)

Table 1-2: Serious Incidents to Report to the Service Duty Officer	
Type of Incident	**Description**
4. Use of force incidents	Use of force by law enforcement personnel that results in the serious injury or death of a subject. Physical application of an Electronic Control Device (ECD) (e.g., Taser®) to a subject. Any police canine deployment where a bite occurs. Any intentional discharge of a firearm by law enforcement personnel (excluding non-injury discharges during training, recreational shooting activities, and authorized administrative uses such as the dispatch of wildlife or nuisance animals). Any unintentional discharge of a firearm by law enforcement personnel (excluding non-injury discharges during training).
5. Significant law enforcement events	When deploying specially trained teams to augment normal Service law enforcement and security capabilities.
6. Significant search and rescue incidents	When they occur on lands under the jurisdiction of the Service.
7. Aircraft accidents	When they occur on lands under the jurisdiction of the Service or accidents involving aircraft owned, operated, or under the operational control of the Service (regardless of who owns the land). Also must report these incidents in accordance with 330 FW 5, Aircraft Mishap Notification, Investigation, and Reporting.
8. Political incidents	When they involve political officials of Federal, State, or foreign governments or their immediate families and occur on lands under the jurisdiction of the Service.
9. Natural or human-caused disasters	When they occur on lands under the jurisdiction of the Service and cause significant damage. This includes hazardous material spills. The threshold of property damage must be in accordance with 446 DM 17.
10. Loss of Service firearms, ECDs or law enforcement badges and credentials	Any loss of firearms, ECDs, or law enforcement badges and credentials.
11. Property damage of more than $100,000	When it occurs on lands under the jurisdiction of the Service.

Table 1-2: Serious Incidents to Report to the Service Duty Officer	
Type of Incident	**Description**
12. Incidents that could result in significant media interest	When they occur on or are adjacent to lands under the jurisdiction of the Service.

B. Serious incidents affecting homeland security: Table 1-3 summarizes the types of incidents that may affect homeland security that you must report immediately.

Table 1-3: Other Serious Incidents Related to Homeland Security to Report	
Type of Incident	**Description**
1. Critical Infrastructure Protection	Information regarding vulnerabilities, surveillance, physical targeting, or cyber targeting of: - Major national monuments and icons, - Key resources, such as major dams or major oil/natural gas production and transmission infrastructure, and - Major public or private events taking place on Service lands.
2. Land and Maritime Borders (see Table 1-4 for Southwest Border incidents)	Information regarding illegal cross-border activity (routes, methods, conveyances, and organizations) that impacts Service lands: - Human smuggling, - Drug smuggling, and - Smuggling weapons or other dangerous articles.

Table 1-3: Other Serious Incidents Related to Homeland Security to Report	
Type of Incident	**Description**
3. Terrorism	Information regarding terrorist(s); activists with terrorist intent; insurgent; or criminal element plans, intentions, activities, capabilities, or threats to attack any Service critical infrastructure or key resource, Service facility, or personnel, such as: Indications of illegal entry into the United States by terrorists, Suspicious activities that may indicate pre-operational planning or targeting of Service infrastructure, resources, facilities, or personnel, Suspicious transportation conveyances operating in proximity to Service infrastructure or resources, Receiving direct or implied threats (e.g., phone calls, emails, etc.) to infrastructure or resources, and Information about the operations and tactics that terrorists may use to target infrastructure, resources, facilities, or personnel.

C. Serious incidents on the Southwest Border: Except for the incidents listed in Table 1-4 below, when one of the incidents from Tables 1-2 and 1-3 occurs on the Southwest Border, you must report it immediately. Table 1-4 summarizes the types of incidents you have 3 business days to report if they occur on a station within 100 miles of the United States' Southwest International Border. For these incidents only, you must submit a written incident report within 3 business days of the incident.

Table 1-4: Southwest Border Incident Reporting (3-day reporting requirement)	
Type of Incident	**Description**
1. Illegal cross-border activities	Information regarding illegal cross-border activity that crosses or impacts Service lands such as: Human smuggling, Vehicle pursuits, Firearms or weapons discharged or seized, Abandoned vehicles, and Other unusual activity or significant damage to natural resources.
2. Assaults	Assaults on law enforcement officers (including officers from other agencies), employees, or visitors.

Table 1-4: Southwest Border Incident Reporting (3-day reporting requirement)	
Type of Incident	**Description**
3. Threats	☐ Threats to law enforcement officers, employees, or visitors.
4. Drug Seizures or Arrests	When the value or amount exceeds a personal use standard. ☐ Identify type, quantity, and value of the drugs. ☐ Identify the quantity or value of cash, vehicles, firearms, or property related to the incident. ☐ Identify citizenship of the arrestee(s). ☐ Identify if it was a violent incident or if any threats occurred. ☐ Include seizures and arrests conducted by other agencies, if available.
5. Border Fence Breaches	Also report pedestrian or vehicle barrier breaches.
6. Undocumented Alien Apprehensions	☐ Report apprehensions other agencies conduct on Service land, if available. ☐ Report deceased, undocumented aliens.

Special Operations Response Team – (SORT)
SORT Commander: Vic Coffman

In the case of an event which requires a Special Operations Response Team (SORT), and time permits, the Refuge Manager must submit a written request to the Chief of Refuge Law Enforcement explaining the need for the request and outlining the number and type of resources needed and estimated cost. The authority for activating a SORT can only be granted by the Regional Director or his/her designee. If time does not permit a written request, or for guidance in determining if a SORT Team is needed, contact Vic Coffman at 601-397-0270.

MANDATORY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE REGIONAL OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS
FWS units should notify the Regional Fire Management Office under the following circumstances:

- Action was taken on a fire and a request will be made for regional funding
- Wildland fire results in an injury or a structure/dwelling is damaged or destroyed
- Assistance from a cooperating agency was incurred FWS Regional - Emergency Services Coordinator - will be notified for all-natural disasters occurrences.

FWS Regional Law Enforcement Chief and Deputy Chief will be notified for all law enforcement incidents which are identified in previous tables.

Report Contents

All reports should contain the following information, in so far as the solicited information is known and available:

Subject	Name or Description of Incident
Time and Date	Time and date of occurrence.
Location	Brief description of incident location.
Summary	Brief description of incident.
Names/Titles	Names and titles of persons involved if appropriate.
Status of Case	What's being done and/or will be done next.
Agencies	Other federal, state, local or other agencies involved or to become involved in the incident.
Media	The level of media interest and involvement.
Submitter	Name and title of person submitting report, which should appear on the report itself (not in a Lotus Notes/Microsoft Outlook cover).
Contact	Name and telephone number of the park person who can be contacted for additional information, or a 24-hour contact number.

Southeast Regional Office Incident Reporting Procedures

The Southeast Regional Chief, Office of Refuge Law Enforcement, should be notified of serious incidents by telephone, and should be sent a copy of reports.

Vic Coffman – FWS Regional Acting Chief, Office of Refuge Law Enforcement
Cell: 601-397-0270, vic_coffman@fws.gov.

Alternate – Bruce Butler, FWS Regional Acting Deputy Chief, Office of Refuge Law Enforcement, Cell: 904-775-8314, bruce_butler@fws.gov.

For after-hours telephone numbers, please see Chapter 70 “FWS Region 4 Office,” or contact SACC.

CHEMICAL SPILLS (OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS)
Contact for Resources
USFWS Southeast Region Spill Coordinator listed below.

All oil spills, hazardous chemical releases, pipeline accidents, transportation accidents involving hazardous material or oil, releases of radioactive materials, and releases of etiological or hazardous biological materials must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center immediately (1-800-424-8802). Refer to www.nrc.uscg.mil on the Internet for updated information on the National Response Center. The U.S. Coast Guard or the Environmental Protection Agency will respond with or designate an On-Scene Coordinator who will ensure that proper action is being taken to minimize the impact and clean up the spill. Advise the Southeast Regional Oil Spill and Hazardous Materials Coordinator after ensuring that the National Response Center has been notified. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be prepared to assist the On-Scene Coordinator with logistics and information about sensitive agency resources. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff should not participate directly in cleanup activities unless trained and certified in handling hazardous materials. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to document affect(s) of the spill on agency resources, operations, and visitor services. Also document the amount of staff time directed towards the incident.

50 Southeast Region Coordinators
USFWS Southeast Region Oil Spill & Hazardous Material Coordinator – Greg Masson Office: 404-679-7223 Cell: 678-428-4215

RESERVED FOR STATEMENT ON BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES

NATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE (NIFOG)

Website to NIFOG: http:/www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/nifog/

The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a technical reference for emergency communications planning and for radio technicians responsible for radios that will be used in disaster response. The NIFOG includes rules and regulations for use of nationwide and other interoperability channels, tables of frequencies and standard channel names, and other reference material, formatted as a pocket-sized guide for radio technicians to carry with them.

WILDERNESS FIRE MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service policy pertaining to using prescribed fires (PF) and natural ignition fires managed for resource benefits in wilderness areas is that these fires may be used to reduce fuel loadings or change vegetative patterns and diversity caused by the suppression of wildland fires. In addition, prescribed fires and natural ignition fires may be used in wilderness areas to keep wildland fires from threatening developments, significant resources, or from leaving the wilderness. Natural ignition fires with an approved fire management plan containing pre-determined criteria and a management decision tree can be managed and not immediately suppressed.

Guidance and approval procedures for the use of mechanized equipment in wilderness areas of the National Park Service are outlined in individual unit fire management and wilderness management plans.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wildfires in wilderness or other especially reserved areas are appropriately suppressed unless there is an approved prescribed fire plan. The use of all suppression methods, tools and equipment, including motorized equipment, is authorized in wilderness areas or proposed wilderness areas; however, suppression methods least damaging to wilderness values and objectives will be used. Proper planning and approval of the plan should reduce the concern about the "appropriateness" of the suppression action.

USDA FOREST SERVICE

The Regional Forester is responsible for approving the use of prescribed fire managed for resource benefits on a wilderness by wilderness basis through approval of the appropriate management plan. The management plan sets forth the standards and guidelines for the use and application of prescribed fire and natural ignition fires managed for resource benefits and the methods of monitoring results (FSM 2324.04b).

During a wildfire emergency response every effort should be made to utilize the tools and methods that will minimize impacts to Wilderness and Wilderness values. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) should be employed whenever possible; however, Wilderness values must never be allowed to compromise safety of firefighters or the public.

At times it may be necessary to utilize motorized equipment or mechanical transport typically under extreme circumstances and to protect life and or private property. In those cases, see FSM 2320 for current direction, the 2007 version is excerpted and summarized below:

During a wildfire emergency response, the Forest Supervisor has the authority to approve:

- Chainsaws
- Mist blowers (leaf blowers)
- Motor vehicle travel
- Helicopter landings
- Helicopter aerial ignition during burnout or backfiring operations
- Use of fire retardant
- Pumps

During a wildfire emergency response, only the Regional Forester may approve:

- Dozers, tractors, tractor plows and heavy equipment use

When requesting Regional Forester approvals, the Wilderness Fire Motorized Equipment Request Checklist form in Appendix A should be completed and sent to SACC.

SACC will contact:

- John Campbell, Regional Wilderness Program Manager – 404-347-2761 or (c) 404-805-8110
- Chris Sporl, Director of Recreation/Wilderness/Heritage/Interpretation - 404-347-2479
- Dave Martin, Assistant Director – Operations of Fire and Aviation Management – 706-949-4610
- Shardul Raval, Director of Fire and Aviation Management – 404-347-3464

This staff will collectively provide advice and guidance to the Regional Forester.

APPENDIX A

NATIONAL FOREST
WILDERNESS FIRE MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT REQUEST CHECKLIST

The appropriate Forest Service Line Officer should ask these questions when a unit calls for approval of motorized equipment within a Wilderness area. When requesting Regional Forester approval for use of motorized equipment in Wilderness areas, Forests must provide the Southern Area Coordination Center with this information.

1. What is the threat to life or property within or outside Wilderness boundary? What is the expected timeline if the threat is not imminent?

2. What are the predicted fire weather and fire behavior and expected rate of spread in the next burning period? Over the next several burning periods? Did a Fire Behavior Analyst provide or validate this prediction?

3. What is the probability of success of hand tool, hose lay, or air attack under observed and predicted burning conditions? What other alternatives or options are available, and what is the predicted chance of success?

4. What is the estimated size of containment if motorized equipment is not used or for each of the alternatives identified above?

5. If motorized equipment is approved and used, what is the expected size at containment?

_____

6. What type of motorized equipment is being requested?

A. Tractors/Tractor Plows (RF) _____
B. Other Types of Heavy Equipment (RF) _____
C. Chainsaws _____
D. Leaf/Mist Blowers _____
E. Pumps _____
F. ATV or UTV _____
G. Helicopter Use _____
H. Helicopter Landings _____
I. Air Tankers _____
J. Fire Retardant _____
K. Other (specify) _____

7. If tractors or other ground disturbing heavy equipment is requested, how will they be utilized and what are the expected impacts in terms of ground disturban**ce? (For example, if you are asking for four tractors, will there be four plowed lines, or do you intend to send two tractors** around each side of the fire creating a single bladed line of a specified width?

8. Who is your Wilderness resource advisor on site, and what do they recommend?

9. If the opinion is that conditions are so extreme and an urgent need exists for motorized equipment use in Wilderness, have you ordered an Incident Management Team? If so, what type? If not, why not?

10. With such severe conditions, how will you provide for safety of personnel, including required safety zones?

NOTES:

- Helicopters can be used for water dropping and cargo delivery without landing and without Line Officer approval.
- Forest Supervisors can approve requests for the use of most motorized equipment or mechanical transport in Wilderness areas, except tractors, tractor/plows, dozers and other heavy equipment.
- Only the Regional Forester can approve the use of tractors, tractor-plows, dozers and other types of heavy equipment in Wilderness areas.
- All use of any types of Motorized Equipment or Mechanical Transport in Wilderness requires appropriate Line Officer approval.

APPENDIX B

NATIONAL FORESTS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILLS - INITIAL DISCOVERY

NOTE: advise reporting unit not to become involved in rescue, containment, plugging of leaks, or other operational activities. Advise them to restrict their role to self-protection, hazard identification, area security and reporting.

When the initial report is received, the Dispatcher should ask the following:

- Describe the scene.
- Can you see any numbers or placards on the vehicle or containers? If so, what are they? Are any warning signs or symbols visible?
- Is the driver or any passengers available to talk to?
- Is anyone injured, ill, vomiting, overcome, trapped or in need of rescue?
- Is the spill in progress? Can you hear or see leaking valves or containers?
- Are there any response units on the scene?
- Advise the reporting unit:
- Keep a safe distance and stay upwind of the spill.
- Use the DOT Guidebook and pass on the warning associated with the indicated chemical.
- Protect yourself. Do not touch, walk into or inhale smoke, vapors or fumes from the spilled material. Do not attempt to obtain a sample. Treat as if it is toxic.
- Secure the area. Stop traffic if feasible. Do not allow entry until proven safe by the local authorities responding to the spill.
- Do not attempt rescue (leave that to trained personnel with protective equipment).

Notify:

- Local authorities with response responsibilities.
- District Ranger.
- Forest & Regional HAZMAT Coordinators within 24 hours.

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