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| File Code: | 5130/5100/6180 | Date: | March 26, 2013 |
| Route To: |   |
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| Subject: | Facilitating Treatment of Traumatic Injuries |
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| To: | All Employees |
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This letter provides additional guidance to assist employees, supervisors, and affected units in addressing traumatic injuries, including those that are incident (wildfire) related.

The first priority in a work related traumatic injury is to ensure expedient medical treatment is provided to the employee. We recognize the nature of an injury can complicate field treatment, stabilization, and transport of traumatically injured employees. The seriousness of an injury may be difficult to determine; therefore, all work related traumatic injuries will be assessed by the on-site individual with the highest level of medical certification. This person will direct patient care and treatment until the employee is released to the care of a senior medical professional (i.e., life-flight nurse/paramedic, ambulance paramedic, emergency room physician, etc.) A seriously injured employee will be transported to the nearest emergency room or trauma center. The home unit shall immediately assign a liaison to provide assistance to the injured employee. The liaison will work with an Albuquerque Service Center, Human Resources Management, Workers’ Compensation (ASC-HRM WC) case manager, communicating on behalf of an incapacitated employee to his/her family, coworkers, supervisor, and directing media inquiries to the appropriate public affairs/information officer and line officer.

General guidance in dealing with traumatic injuries sustained on an emergency incident is found in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, Chapter 10, and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 7. As these publications provide interagency direction, please refer to the steps below for Forest Service specific guidance on traumatic injuries involving burns.

* After on-site medical response, initial medical stabilization, and evaluation are completed, the decision to refer the employee to a regional burn center is made only by the attending physician. WC benefits may be denied in the event the employee is transported to a burn center without a referral from the attending physician.
* The Agency Administrator or designee for the incident will coordinate with the employee’s home unit to identify a patient liaison to assist the injured employee with filing the workers’ compensation claim and coordinating with ASC-HRM WC.

Our goal is to ensure our injured employees are afforded quality medical care in accordance with the Federal Employees Compensation Act. If you have questions or feedback regarding this letter, please contact Kirk Powell, WC Program Manager, at (505) 944-8116 or at kdpowell@fs.fed.us.

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| */s/ J. Lenise Lago* |
| J. LENISE LAGO |
| Deputy Chief for Business Operations |

cc: Kirk D Powell

Laura Medina

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