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Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management



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Effective Date: March 23, 2020

To: All Department of Forestry and Fire Management Employees and all Wildland Fire Employees of Fire Departments and Fire Districts who have a Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Subject: Adjustments to Wildland Fire Preparedness Activities for the 2020 Fire Year in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The purpose of this memo is to provide the wildland fire community who work for the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (and DFFM Cooperator Agencies) direction on adjustments to wildland fire preparedness activities for the 2020 Fire Year. These activities include: Work Capacity Test (WCT), and RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR).

Many wildland fire position qualifications require the completion of the RT-130 and an annual WCT. Based on the current situation and guidance related to COVID-19, the goal is to reduce impact and exposure to our employees while maintaining our ability to respond to incidents and carry out mission critical wildland fire activities.

The Department of Forestry and Fire Management has carefully analyzed the risk of responder exposure to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in relation to the need to evaluate the annual physical and training requirements of wildland firefighters as part of annual fire preparedness. Two categories of requirements are outlined below: (1) Employees new to the wildland firefighting workforce, and (2) Incumbent/Returning firefighters and firefighters who have transferred from another State, DFFM State Cooperator, or Federal agency to DFFM or a DFFM Cooperator Agency. To this end, the following alternatives will be implemented immediately. DFFM Cooperator Agencies may elect more stringent directions if deemed prudent.

Employees New to the Wildland Firefighting Workforce

- Work Capacity Test (WCT): Required to complete any related light, moderate, or arduous work capacity test
 - Discourage re-use or sharing of pack test vests.
 - Encourage use of weight appropriate bladder bags or individually issued fireline packs.
- Basic Firefighter Training: Required to complete the following training:
 - S-130 Firefighter Training

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- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- ICS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-700 An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
- Fire Shelter Proficiency Training. Fire shelter training should be implemented using a standard fire shelter that no longer meets service parameters or a practice fire shelter as a one-person, one-time use.

Incumbent/Returning/Transferred Firefighters

- Work Capacity Tests (WCT) are suspended for the 2020 Fire Season. For employees who have not completed the WCT to date, the IQS Account Manager will update the WCT (Fitness), statewide, based on the previously attained 2019 level (light, moderate, arduous). It is recommended that the local IQS Account Users include this memo in the employee's local agency training record for documentation.
 - If a firefighter requires a more strenuous WCT for 2020 than was required in 2019, they are required to complete the WCT utilizing the standards outlined above in the section for *Employees New to the Wildland Firefighting Workforce*
- RT-130 Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR): For employees who have not completed the RT-130 to date, the IQS Account Manager will update the RT-130, statewide, based on the expiration date identified in IQS from the 2019 season. The following actions are recommended in lieu of the formal training.
 - Complete a self-study refresher utilizing the WFSTAR videos and support materials. Employees should include topics that focus on entrapment avoidance and related case studies, current issues, and other hazards and safety issues.
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog>
 - To compensate for the hands-on fire shelter training, employees are encouraged to watch the "New Generation Fire Shelter" video <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/fire-shelter-and-personal-protective-equipment-subcommittee>
 - Predicted service information <https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/predictive.htm>
 - Utilize content from the Lesson Learned Center <https://www.wildfirelessons.net/home>

Thank you all for your efforts,

p.p.



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