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# Office of the State Forester

## 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 Chain Saw 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 chain saw recurrent training activities for the 2020 Fire Year. These activities include: Annual Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) training and bi-annual CPR and Basic First Aid (CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid) certification.

All wildland Faller (chain saw) position qualifications (Faller 3, Faller 2, Faller 1 for both trainees and job qualified) require an annual completion of BBP training and bi-annual CPR/First Aid certification. 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 BBP training requirement and the CPR/First Aid certification for wildland firefighters as part of fire preparedness. Two categories of requirements are outlined below: (1) Employees new to the chain saw position qualifications, and (2) Incumbent/Returning Firefighters or Firefighters who have Transferred from another State, DFFM State Cooperator, or Federal agency who have previously obtained chain saw position qualifications. The following alternatives will be implemented immediately. DFFM Cooperator Agencies may elect more stringent requirements if deemed prudent.

### Employees New to the Chain Saw Position Qualifications

- Bloodborne Pathogens Class (BBP): Required to obtain the Bloodborne Pathogens Certification
- CPR/First Aid: Required to obtain the following certification:
  - CPR: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

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- First Aid: Basic First Aid
- All DFFM or DFFM Cooperator instructors for BBP and CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid will follow the existing recommendations outlined on the World Health Organization (WHO) website <https://www.who.int/> and refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for recommendations <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, as well as the guidance of national, state, and local public health authorities, which will have the most up-to-date facts and will provide information on basic protective measures against the COVID-19

**Incumbent/Returning/Transferred Firefighters with previous Faller Position Qualifications**

- Bloodborne Pathogens re-certification (BBP) is suspended for the 2020 Fire Season. For employees who have not completed the BBP to date, the IQS Account Manager will input a BBP entry in IQS, statewide, based on the previously attained 2019 date. The following actions are recommended in lieu of the formal training:
  - Complete a self-study refresher of Pro Trainings “Universal Precautions How to Reduce Your Risk” video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5tEo8HWUUw>
  - Complete a self-study refresher of Pro Trainings “Welcome to ProBloodborne” educational video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9OtY-YE4vg>
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation & First Aid (CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid): For employees who have a CPR and/or First Aid Certification that will expire in 2020, the IQS Account Manager will update the expiration date for one year, statewide, based on the 2020 expiration date identified in IQS. The following actions are recommended in lieu of the formal training.
  - Complete the online portion of CPR/First-Aid Courses. Find your own course or utilize one of the websites provided below
    - eCPR Certification: [https://ecprcertification.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0PPq9qm26AIVBcZkCh2wBQiqEAAYASAAEgIThfD\\_BwE](https://ecprcertification.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0PPq9qm26AIVBcZkCh2wBQiqEAAYASAAEgIThfD_BwE)
    - American Academy of CPR and First Aid, Inc: <https://www.onlinecprcertification.net/adultcprcourse.php>
    - CPR Heart Center: <https://cprheartcenter.com/>

Thank you all for your efforts,

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