

*** For current guidance on the Strategic Operational Planner Position,
please see NWCG memo: NWCG#039-2010 at
<http://www.nwcg.gov/general/memos/nwcg-039-2010.html> ***



Fire Use Manager 1 and 2 to Strategic Operational Planner Transition Plan

April 1, 2009

Background:

Due to changes in strategy to implement the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy the term Wildland Fire Use (WFU) has been rescinded. WFU position codes and team group names must be changed to better reflect the new wildland fire management strategy. In February of 2009 the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Incident Operations Standards Working Team (IOSWT) and the NWCG Fire Use Working Team (FUWT) met to discuss and propose changes to WFU terminology. The result is the recommendation that Fire Use Manager 1 and 2 (FUM1, FUM2) be merged into a single position. The new name will be Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL).

Position Description:

Primary task of this position is to coordinate the development of the course of action for the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Response Level 3 (RL3) decision document. The SOPL will also provide technical expertise for the incident to meet Land Use Plan (LUP) and Fire Management Plan (FMP) objectives. The position will work under a qualified IC based on complexity level of incident. A qualified SOPL is recommended to take the lead coordinator role for any development of the course of action for the RL3 WFDSS decision document. If it's not possible, it's recommend that a review of the RL3-DAR is completed by a qualified SOPL. The host unit responsible for managing the event will be responsible for the completion of the WFDSS response level 3.

Qualification and Training Standards for the new SOPL position:

The following identifies the experience or training requirements associated with the position.

- Required training: Advanced Fire Use Applications (will be changed to: Advanced Fire Management Applications) and Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130). Advanced Fire Management Applications will be based on the existing S-580 course, but will be offered at the regional level.
- Required Experience: Must be qualified as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2), or Division Supervisor (DIVS).
- Physical Fitness Level: Moderate

- Other Position Assignments That Will Maintain Currency: Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2), Division Supervisor (DIVS), Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3) and any higher position for which this is a prerequisite.

Transition of FUM1 and FUM2

- Currently qualified FUM1's or FUM2's will be converted to a qualified SOPL.
- FUM1 trainee will convert to a qualified SOPL.
- FUM2 trainee to SOPL: Any FUM2 trainee who meets the prerequisite qualifications (RXB2 or DIVS) and training (S580 and RT-130) and who has initiated and partially completed a FUM2 PTB prior to June 1, 2009 (date of new 310-1) will be given credit for those tasks. Completed tasks will be converted to the new SOPL PTB. The WFIP tasks are the equivalent to the WFDSS development tasks.

Any FUM2 trainee who meets the prerequisite qualifications and training but has not initiated a FUM2 PTB prior to June 1, 2009 (date of new 310-1) must have a SOPL PTB initiated and completed complete before being awarded the SOPL position.

SOPL trainees have the ability to initiate and complete the SOPL PTB before completing prerequisite courses. However, they must complete the prerequisite courses to be awarded the SOPL position.

IQCS changes: On the digital side of PTBs; all would be converted to the SOPL PTB but above rules apply on the paper side. All historical experience of FUM1 & FUM2 would be converted to SOPL to maintain historical currency.

Changes to the Current FUM1, FUM2 Position Task Book (PTB):

The following changes are to be made to the existing FUM1, FUM2 PTB:

- Change title to Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL).
- Remove command tasks.
- Modify verbiage related to Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) to (WFDSS) terminology.
- Eliminate WFU terminology.
- Modify type of incident/event coding.

Other Actions:

- Delete references to Wildland Fire Use in PMS 310 -1 May 2008,
- Delete reference to Wildand Fire Use task book considerations; page 29 Entire section: Fire Use Manager 2 & Fire Use Manager 1
- Modify Mob Guide to include new terminology

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