



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
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## MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#017-2009

To: Agency Managers and Geographic Area Coordination Centers

From: NWCG Chair *Brian McManis*

Date: June 15, 2009

Subject: Release of June 2009 Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) and Amended Position Task Books

The June 2009 version of the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) has been released, and all associated Position Task Books (PTB) have now been updated, approved, and are available for use by the interagency wildland fire community.

The PMS 310-1 provides a cornerstone of our National Interagency Incident Management System by establishing minimum interagency qualification requirements for national mobilization of resources. While the 2009 update closely resembles the previous version, this edition clarifies and makes improvements to the previous version, and includes significant changes which are summarized in the "Major Changes" section of the Guide. A majority of the changes were made to reflect current Wildland Fire Management Policy. For example:

1. Eliminating all verbiage associated with "fire use" terminology
2. Eliminating the WFU task coding
3. Eliminating the Fire Use Manager 1 and 2 (FUM1/2) position codes
4. Establishment of the Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL) position qualifications within the Plans function (Transition Plan is posted)
5. Combining the FEMO and FOBS PTBs (Transition Plan is posted)
6. Establishing the two categories of fire type (i.e., wildfire and prescribed fire).

It is important to familiarize yourself with the 2009 PMS 310-1 for a complete understanding of the revisions, and to insure this information is widely distributed within the interagency wildland fire community.

The PTBs were also revised to reflect current Wildland Fire Management Policy and to address other issues. Those edits are also summarized in the “Major Changes” section of the Guide. Any PTB initiated prior to the 2009 PMS 310-1 edition remains valid according to NWCG policy.

The 2009 PMS 310-1 and PTBs can only be found on the NWCG website: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm> and are not be available through the Publication Management System in hard copy. If a hard copy is needed, individual users can download and print the documents as needed.

Please disseminate this information broadly through your communications networks within the wildland fire community.

cc: NWCG Executive Board

**Frequently Asked Questions on the  
Updated Position Task Books and PMS 310-1  
June 2009**

**When will the new task books be required for use?**

The new task books are available for use effective June 1, 2009. They will be required for anyone initiating a new task book after the release date.

**When will the updated PMS 310-1 and PTBs be available?**

The 2009 version of the PMS 310-1 and PTBs were posted June 1, 2009.

**What if I started a prior version of a task book and it's not completed yet?**

Complete the task book you have started. Task books initiated prior to May 2009 will be valid for 3 years from the date they were initiated or 3 years from the date of successful completion of the first task.

**Why is this change needed?**

The new edition of the PMS 310-1 and PTBs reflect the current direction of Wildland Fire Management Policy.

**I'm a training officer/specialist. What will this change mean to me?**

You will need to become familiar with changes to both the PMS 310-1 and the task books.

**What has changed about the PMS 310-1?**

Major changes are referenced in the front of the PMS 310-1. Some of them include:

- Eliminating all verbiage associated with "fire use" terminology
- Eliminating the WFU task coding
- Eliminating the Fire Use Manager 1 and 2 (FUM1/2) position code
- Establishment of the Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL) position qualifications within the Plans function (Transition Plan is posted)
- Combining the FEMO and FOBS PTBs (Transition Plan is posted)
- Establishing the two categories types of fire (i.e., wildfire and prescribed fire)

**Does the implementation of the new task books in 2009 change something about the way the IQCS System works as far as inputting or reflecting my qualifications?**

No – IQCS will be updated to reflect the new changes.

**Where do I get the new task books and PMS 310-1?**

Task books and the PMS 310-1 are available at the NWCG Publications Management System web site at: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pms.htm>