



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue Boise, Idaho
83705

MEMORANDUM

To: NWCG Fire Directors, Working Teams and Task Group Chairs, National Association of State Foresters

From: Kirk Rowdabaugh, NWCG Chair

Date: June 1, 2006

Subject: National Wildfire Coordinating Group *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1)* Transition Document

On January 31, 2006, the new revision of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1)* was posted onto the NWCG home page. This document became the controlling document outlining minimum NWCG standards qualifying wildland fire personnel for national mobilization and replaced any prior versions. While similar to the previous January 2000 version of the *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide*, it does contain several significant changes. These changes were further refined and posted as the April 2006 version of *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1)* currently on the web.

It is the position of NWCG for wildland fire personnel who were previously qualified in a position, a position that has significantly changed, trainees issued Position Task Books (PTB's) with tasks partially completed, and trainees issued PTB's with no tasks completed, the following criteria applies:

- If an individual is qualified in a position prior to the January 2006 revision of the 310-1, the individual remains qualified but is subject to any new physical fitness or *Fireline Refresher Training* requirements.
- If a position has significantly changed it is the option of the certifying official to require the previously qualified individual to meet the new standards for qualification or the person will remain qualified by default.

- Trainees may continue to use valid, already initiated and partially completed PTB's which reflect the previous nomenclature. Once completed, they will be qualified and converted to the new position nomenclature upon completion with in the valid time limit allowed.
- Trainees with initiated PTB's that have not been utilized the PTB's, must initiate new PTB's with the correct nomenclature, meet any new physical fitness and the required training for that position.

The transition plan for the following wildland fire positions will be as follows to facilitate a smooth transition to the new qualification system:

Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF)

- The Fire Investigator (FINV) technical specialist position was converted to the Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF) position with a new PTB.
- Qualified FINV's will be automatically converted to the new nomenclature.
- Trainees who were issued the FINV PTB, must reinitiate the new INVF PTB to become qualified. Tasks already completed and evaluated in the FINV task book may be transferred and documented into the new PTB by a qualified INVF and with supervisory approval.

Fire Use Manager Type 1 and 2 (FUM1 & FUM2)

- The Fire Use Manager (FUMA) has been replaced with Fire Use Manager Type 1 and 2 (FUM1 & FUM2).
- For specific transition direction see the **Attachment #1**, NWCG Memorandum "*Fire Use Manager Positions Type 1 and 2 Positions Inclusion in PMS 310-1 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide*".

Helicopter Manager Call When Needed (HELM)

- The Helicopter Manager Call When Needed (HCWN) nomenclature has been changed to HELM.
- Qualified personnel will automatically be converted to the new nomenclature.
- If a trainee has been issued a HCWN PTB and tasks partially completed, then they can continue to use them until the PTB is completed. Once completed, they will then be converted to the HELM qualification.

Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)

- The GIS Technical Specialist (GIST) technical specialist has been converted to a wildland fire incident support position and titled, Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS). A PTB was developed for this position.
- The specific transition process for Geographic Information System Technical Specialist (GIST) personnel will be as follows:
 - a. Current qualified GISTs who have been certified by their respective agencies may be converted to the GISS position. Conversion to a qualified GISS should only occur if it can be determined that the individual has successfully performed all of the tasks identified within the GISS PTB on incidents. In addition, the individual must have completed one GIST assignment on a wildfire or wildland fire use fire in the past three years (January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2005). This determination should be made by the individual's agency certifying official. The certifying official may rely on subject matter experts of their choosing to assist with this evaluation. If the individual meets these criteria, they will not be required to complete a GISS PTB.
 - b. In order to document the conversion, the certifying official should complete and sign the certifying page of the GISS PTB for the individual. In addition, within the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) the incident qualification card authorizing official should write a statement in the justification field similar to this: "This individual is qualified as a GISS as they have fulfilled all the tasks in the taskbook and have been on a wildland fire use or wildfire assignment as a GIST in the past three years."
 - c. Current qualified GISTs who do not meet the stated requirements for conversion to a qualified GISS should be converted to GISS trainee on their incident qualification card. The GISS PTB should be initiated for each individual by their account manager/certifying official.
 - d. Current trainees for the GIST position should be converted to GISS trainee on their incident qualification card. The GISS PTB should be initiated for each individual by their account manager/certifying official.
 - e. The GIST position title and code will be made inactive in IQCS. This position code will no longer be used on incident qualification cards or in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Past experience in this position will remain on the individuals' IQCS records.

Those seeking to become a Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS) will be required to meet the full qualification requirements.

Firing Boss (FIRB)

- The Ignition Specialist Type 1 and 2 (RXI1 & RXI2) have been combined into Firing Boss (FIRB) position.
- The Firing Boss section of the Single Resource PTB has been modified to reflect the change in tasks required of this position and the physical fitness level has been changed from “Arduous” to “Moderate”.
- For specific transition direction, please refer to **Attachment #2** NWCG Memorandum “*RX11/RX12 to FIRB Transition*”.

Public Information Officers Type 1 and 2 (PIO1 and PIO2)

- The Incident Information Officer Type 1 and 2 (IOF1 and IOF2) nomenclature has been changed to Public Information Officer Type 1 and 2 (PIO1 and PIO2).
- Qualified IOF1’s and IOF2’s will be automatically converted to the new nomenclature.
- Trainees may continue to use valid, already initiated and partially completed PTB’s which reflect the previous nomenclature and will be qualified as PIO1’s or PIO2’s upon completion.
- If initiated PTB’s have not been utilized, the new PIO1 or PIO2 PTB must be issued to the trainee.

Public Information Officer (PIOF)

- Incident Information Officer Type 3 (IOF3) has been renamed to Public Information Officer (PIOF).
- Qualified IOF3’s will be automatically converted to the new nomenclature.
- Trainees may continue to use valid, already initiated and partially completed PTB’s which reflect the previous nomenclature and will be qualified as PIOF upon completion.
- If initiated PTB’s have not been utilized, the new PTB’s must be issued to the trainee.

Safety Officer-Line (SOFR)

- The Safety Officer Type 3 (SOF3) has been renamed to Safety Officer-Line (SOFR).

- Qualified SOF3's will be automatically converted to the new nomenclature.
- Trainees may continue to use valid, already initiated and partially completed PTB's which reflect the previous nomenclature and will be qualified as SOFR's upon completion.
- If initiated PTB's have not been utilized, the new PTB's must be issued to the trainee.

Structure Protection Specialist (STPS)

- Structure Protection Specialist (STPS) technical specialist was converted into the wildland fire position category and is now called Structure Protection Specialist.
- This position requires experience as a qualified Division Group Supervisor or Incident Commander Type 3 as well as completion of a STPS PTB.

If you have any questions, please contact Vince Mazzier, Vice Chair of the IOSWT at (208) 387-5477 or email (vmazzier@nifc.blm.gov).

Kirk Rowdabaugh,
Chair, National Wildland Fire Coordination Group

Attachments:

Fire Use Manager Positions Type 1 and 2 Positions Inclusion in PMS 310-1 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide

Ignition Specialist (RXI2 and RXI1) to Firing Boss (FIRB) Transition

Attachment #1



INCIDENT OPERATION STANDARDS WORKING TEAM

June 16, 2005

To: NWCG Agency Fire Directors
Geographic Area Coordination Center Directors

From: Chair, National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

Subject: Fire Use Manager Positions Type 1 and 2 Positions Inclusion in
PMS 310-1 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide

The Fire Use Manager (FUMA) Type 1 and 2 positions have been accepted by the Incident Operations Standards Working Team (IOSWT) for inclusion in the *NIIMS Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1* effective immediately.

Qualification standards, required training, and Positions Task Books have been developed and are attached. They will be available electronically on the NWCG publications site. We recommend agencies begin implementation of this new standard immediately with mandatory compliance effective July 1, 2005.

The transition plan for currently qualified FUMA personnel to the new FUM Type 1 and Type 2 positions will be as follows:

- All Fire Use Managers currently qualified in the Incident Qualification Certification System (IQCS) will automatically be converted to FUM1
- Trainees currently in IQCS will automatically be converted to FUM2 trainee
- The FUMA position code will become inactive in IQCS with the activation of the FUM1 and FUM2 position codes.

The actions taken in IQCS to transition these positions are identified on the attached "IQCS FUMA Actions Description." This document should be used by the IQCS account manager when reviewing qualifications for these positions for incident qualification records.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Leaverton, Chair of the IOSWT at (719) 553-1411 or email (bleaverton@fs.fed.use).

Kirk Rowdabaugh,
Chair, National Wildland Fire Coordination Group

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Attachment #2



INCIDENT OPERATION STANDARDS WORKING TEAM

April 13, 2006

To: NWCG Agency Fire Directors
Geographic Area Coordination Center Directors

From: Chair, National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

Subject: Ignition Specialist (RXI2 and RXI1) to Firing Boss (FIRB) Transition

The Ignition Specialist (RXI2 and RXI1) positions were replaced by the Firing Boss (FIRB) position in the new Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (310-1, 1/06). The following actions have been taken to facilitate this change:

- The FIRB fitness requirement in 310-1 has been changed to moderate since the FIRB position has seen limited usage during national suppression mobilizations in the past, and is expected to be used primarily for prescribed fire. This will maintain consistency with fitness requirements for the old Ignition Specialist positions.
- The FIRB PTB has been revised to more accurately reflect both suppression and prescribed fire duties. The FIRB PTB can be completed on any wildland fire including suppression, wildland fire use, and/or prescribed fire.
- Individuals with a RXI2 PTB initiated prior to February 1, 2006 may complete the PTB within 3 years of initiation as long as they complete the process prior to December 31, 2008 (refer to 310-1, pg. 21).
- The Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) has been changed so that:
 - All currently qualified RXI2 and RXI1 personnel have been awarded FIRB qualification.
 - Until December 31, 2008, FIRB qualification will be awarded to those successfully completing RXI2 PTBs that were initiated prior to 2/1/06.

These changes were based on recommendations from the field and from the Fire Use and Incident Operations Standards working teams, and will improve integration of fire management qualifications and make it easier for employees to progress to the Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB2) ranks.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Leaverton, Chair of the IOSWT at (719) 553-1411 or email (bleaverton@fs.fed.use).

Kirk Rowdabaugh,
Chair, National Wildland Fire Coordination Group

Attachments

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