



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

National Interagency Fire Center
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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#001-2013

To: NWCG Executive Board (agency representatives)
Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs

From: NWCG Chair 

Date: March 15, 2013

Subject: Wildland Fire Module Typing and Release of New Standards

Wildland Fire Modules (WFMs), formerly known as Fire Use Modules, provide technical- and ecological-based expertise in support of wildfire operations and prescribed fire planning and implementation. Historically, the modules have operated without crew typing. Over the last several years, the number of WFMs has increased. With this increase, the actual skill levels and abilities among WFMs have varied greatly. This inconsistency has caused concerns among fire managers and IMTs.

In response to this concern, two types of crew typing have been developed. The adoption of two types of WFMs will ensure resources will be placed in appropriate situations regarding skill and knowledge associated with typing. Operational safety for WFMs, which is gained by the above, is the number one priority for this change.

The *Interagency Standards for Wildland Fire Module Operations*, PMS 430, replaces the previous guide, *Interagency Fire Use Module Operations Guide*, PMS 317. The new *Interagency Standards for Wildland Fire Module Operations* provides standardized procedures and expectations for Wildland Fire Modules specifically associated with the planning and implementation of planned and unplanned wildland fire and hazardous fuels treatments. These standards will be used by staff, supervisors, specialists, and technicians for planning, administering, and conducting WFM operations. These standards are to be used as a measure of WFM typing, qualifications, capabilities, and expected performance.

The standards will assist the expanding WFMs to operate in an environment that allows for skills and abilities to be recognized, allows for WFMs accountability, and keeps the WFM program viable to the needs of fire managers. In addition, the new standards will create an NWCG-standardized resource providing common language, operating procedures, oversight, and developmental capabilities for Wildland Fire Modules.

The following identifies the experience requirements associated with the Type 1 and Type 2 WFMs:

- Required Leader Experience:
 - Type 1 – Task Force Leader (TFLD) and Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 2 (RXB2)
 - Type 2 – Single Resource Boss, Crew (CRWB)
- Certification Standards:
 - Type 1 – Prior to becoming available for assignment, all are required to complete and submit the annual *Type 1 Wildland Fire Module Certification Review Checklist*, see Appendix B. The specific certification process and documentation for a Type 1 WFM can be found in Chapter 9 of the standards.
 - In addition to certification, all Type 1 WFMs are required, on an annual basis, to complete the *Type 1 Wildland Fire Module Certification/Preparedness/Proficiency Review Documentation*, see Appendix C.
 - Type 2 – Prior to becoming available for assignment, all Type 2 WFMs are required to complete and submit the annual *Type 2 Wildland Fire Module Mobilization Checklist*, see Appendix D. This documentation must be completed and sent to the appropriate local dispatch center and GACC and will serve as the Type 2 WFM certification.

Existing Qualified WFMs:

Starting January 1, 2013: All existing WFMs will be considered to be Type 2 WFMs until they have completed and submitted the Type 1 WFM certification process.

ROSS Changes:

Starting January 1, 2013: WFM's will be classified as Type 1 or Type 2. Resource Order Category in ROSS should be changed from an O – Overhead order to C – Crew or module order. This will also clarify WFM's skill levels and expectations.

The guide and appendices are posted at, and can be downloaded from, the NWCG publications Web page at <http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/products/pms430.pdf>

For any questions or further information please contact Todd Richardson, chair of the Fire Use Subcommittee, trichardson@blm.gov, at (303) 239-3878.

Attachment: *Interagency Standards for Wildland Fire Module Operations*, PMS 430

cc: NWCG Committee Chairs
NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU)