



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#013-2013

To: NWCG Executive Board

From: NWCG Chair *Auter Bidabwan*

Date: December 5, 2013

Subject: Release of Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide, PMS 484 (11/2013)

The November 2013 version of the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide* (PMS 484), commonly referred to as the *Rx Guide*, has been released and is available for use by the interagency wildland fire community. PMS 484 replaces the previous July 2008 version of the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide*.

Additionally, the *Agency Administrator Go No Go Checklist* (PMS 422) has been changed to the *Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization* (PMS 485), and the *NWCG Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist* (PMS 421) has been updated and is now the *Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist* (PMS 486).

The PMS 484 provides standardized interagency guidance, specifically associated with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire on federal lands. It also describes the minimum interagency requirements that are acceptable for all phases of a prescribed fire for federal NWCG member agencies.

The following significant changes have been incorporated during the PMS 484 revision:

- Incorporated Lessons Learned
- Element 2 – Clarified *Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization* intent and use.
- Element 7 - Prescription – clarified that in some cases spatial fire behavior modeling may be needed or desirable to establish the prescription window, holding, and contingency plans.
- Element 17 – Contingency Plan - Clarified intent and flexibility when using Management Action Points.

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- Element 18 – Changed to Wildfire Declaration and revised the criteria for declaring a wildfire reflecting the changes in Element 17 and the 2009 federal fire policy implementation guidance.
- Reviews – Changed based upon the 2012 JFSP project 10-1-05-1 *Using Escaped Prescribed Fire Reviews to Improve Organizational Learning*, Final Report by Anne Black.
- References – Updated References.
- Added the following sections:
 - Refreshers
 - Appendix B – Basic Smoke Management Practices
 - Appendix C – Contingency Planning Aids as a complement to the changes in Element 17 and 18
- The 2013 edition of the PMS 484, 485 and 486 will only be available electronically on the NWCG website at <http://www.nwcg.gov/?q=publications>. If a hard copy is needed, individual users can download and print documents as needed.

Please disseminate this information broadly throughout your communication networks within the wildland fire community.

cc: NWCG PMU
NWCG Committee Chairs
John Cissel, Joint Fire Science Program, Manager