



Memorandum No. 17-006
Date: 28 July 2017

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members
FROM: Dalan Romero, Chair, NWCG Executive Board
SUBJECT: Release of Revised NWCG Documents:
Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (PMS 424)
Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalan Romero", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

This memorandum issues two revised NWCG documents:

- [Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide \(PMS 424\)](#)
- [Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide \(PMS 484\)](#)

The *Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (PMS 424)* establishes interagency prescribed fire complexity analysis standards. The analysis provides a focused, subjective assessment by qualified prescribed fire burn bosses that is evaluated and approved by Agency Administrators, and provides insight and improves understanding of the significant risks associated with prescribed fire. The summary of changes is included in the updated document. The PMS 424:

- Provides decision support that highlights the risk to values associated with prescribed fire implementation.
- Identifies the technical difficulty (complexity) of managing the risk to values.
- Informs the complexity rating determination of high, moderate, or low for a prescribed fire.
- Identifies prescribed fire plan elements that may pose special problems or concerns.

The *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484)* establishes national interagency standards for the planning and implementation of prescribed fire. This guide was revised to reflect changes to the PMS 424. Significant changes and new standards include:

- Identifies and describes how to mitigate risks to values during prescribed fire planning and implementation.
- Clarifies the purpose for the Complexity Analysis in Element 3: Complexity Analysis Summary.
- Requires more robust agency administrator involvement in prescribed fire planning.
- Clarifies qualifications required for recommending and signing the final complexity and prescribed fire plan.
- Requires that Prescribed Fire Plan amendments consider effects to prescribed fire complexity.
- Requires that the Prescribed Fire Summary and Final Complexity Worksheet (PMS 424-1) is signed and dated by the prescribed fire plan preparer, the technical reviewer and agency administrator.

Please distribute this information through your agency channels as appropriate.

For additional information, please contact your Fuels Management Committee representative, <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/fuels-management-committee/roster>.

Distribution:

NWCG Committee Chairs

NWCG Staff

Fuels/RX/Fire Planning/Smoke; Fire Environment (Weather/Behavior/Danger)

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.