



File Code: 5100
Route To:

Date: MAR 24 2020

Subject: Adjustments to wildland fire preparedness activities for the 2020 fire year in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

To: Regional Fire Directors

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service adopts the attached Fire Management Board's memo as operational guidance for 2020. This applies to current and returning employees, transfer employees from other federal agencies, and administratively determined and contracted resources.

Fire refresher training (RT-130), is extended for thirteen months from the date of employees' 2019 certification.

Work capacity tests are waived for current employees. However, everyone is required to complete the health screening questionnaire as referenced in the attached memo to receive a temporary medical clearance for 2020. Temporary medical clearances for the work capacity test will be valid for thirteen months from the employee's 2019 date of clearance. If an answer given on the health screening questionnaire indicates the need to take an OF-178 medical exam, please visit the Forest service eMedical website for further instructions: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managingland/fire/safety/emedical>. Instructions are located in the *March, 2020 USFS OF-178 Exam Guidance*.

In addition, the agency suspends requirements for prescribed fire burn boss refresher training (RT-300) through December 31, 2020.

Instructors are strongly encouraged to deliver training utilizing virtual technology as an interim mitigation measure. A copy of this letter and the attached memo shall be placed in employees' training files. Please direct training and qualifications questions to Jim Shultz, Acting Branch Chief, Fire and Aviation Management Training at jim_shultz@nps.gov, or by phone at (208) 387-5215. Medical standards questions should be directed to the eMedical staff at SM.FS.MQP_emedical@usda.gov.

SHAWNA A. LEGARZA, PSYD
Director Fire and Aviation Mgt

Enclosure

cc: Bill Hahnenberg, Mark Lichtenstein, Denise Blankenship, Clint Cross, Frank Guzman, Jim Shultz,
Regional Training Officers

