



Fire Management Board

FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FMB Memorandum No. 24-001

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SUBJECT: MPHAT Evaluation for Health-Related Research Requests

In 2022, FMB chartered the MPHAT to serve as the interagency focal point applicable to fire management focused on Health and Wellbeing. This included the following tasks:

- Support prioritization and coordination of research related to firefighter health and wellbeing, including environmental hazards and mitigations
- Serve as interagency liaison with public health and research entities interested in firefighter health and wellbeing

Every year there are many requests for access to wildland fire employees to participate in internal and external research projects. However, there is no centralized approval process for these requests. For this reason and to support the tasks outlined above, the MPHAT developed an evaluation process is to systematically review research proposals that request access to Department of the Interior (DOI) or US Forest Service (USFS) wildland fire personnel during work hours. Tribal partners are welcome to participate in this process. This was completed by a newly formed MPHAT Research Group that consists of a small group of subject matter experts from wildland fire safety, health, risk management, and research.

This process is meant to facilitate research participation while ensuring that projects are addressing current research priorities, reducing burden to operations and participants while they are working, and preventing duplication of current and past studies. This includes ensuring alignment with any planned or on-going efforts for firefighter health and wellbeing within DOI and USFS.

All health-related science or research projects seeking access to wildland fire personnel or support should be directed complete this evaluation process.

Any questions about this process should be directed to the MPHAT Research Group lead Kathleen Navarro Dubose, PhD, MPH at: OWF_HealthWellbeing@ios.doi.gov