



Fire Management Board

FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FMB Memorandum No. 24-004

TO: Interagency Fire Program Management Group

FROM: Ed Christopher
Acting, Chair, Fire Management Board (FMB)

SUBJECT: Revision of Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standard

Purpose

This memorandum communicates the decision of the Fire Management Board (FMB) to task the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Group to initiate revision of IFPM Qualifications Standards.

Tasking and Deliverable

The intent of the FMB is to develop a unified qualification standard for key fire management positions utilized by the federal land management agencies. The new revised standard should:

- Recognize the advancement of fire program management since inception. The revised standard should be developed considering the current and future context.
- Consider application of the new Wildland Firefighter Series GS-0456, and how other relevant policy, regulation, and law changes may need to be interacted with.
- Consider the 2021 Interagency Fire Program Management Task Team Final Report to the Fire Management Board as a guiding document. Task team members may be available as subject matter experts to assist the IFPM Group if desired.
- Establish minimum qualifications which support risk-based fire management decisions for key positions.
- Reflect required training only if critical to performance of duties related to risk-based decision making and not attained through the natural incident qualifications pathway.
- Ensure consistency across agency and bureaus to support interoperability.

Specifically address the following:

- Update direction for determining unit program complexity and its application.
- Review and update included IFPM positions.
- Eliminate content which is not directly related to implementation of the standard including but not limited to:
 - qualifications for agency administrators.
 - 'common grade determination' language

- Review, and update as appropriate, the selective placement factors with emphasis on risk-based fire management decision making.
- Coordinate with agency human resource professionals to enhance clarity of IFPM role and use during the hiring process.
- Incorporate a maintenance plan to ensure the IFPM standard evolves for the future.

The IFPM Group will deliver an updated IFPM Qualification Standard by January 3, 2025 to FMB for review. The group may choose to move standalone recommendation(s) to FMB for decision prior to the January 3, 2025 date if it serves an immediate collective need. The Group will provide FMB updates at least every other month or as issues arise. Group members will reach out to the greater fire community within their agencies for needed input and expertise, depending on the task and progress to complete this tasking. If needed, the Group may task smaller groups of subject-matter experts to complete this tasking. The Department of the Interior's Office of Wildland Fire Deputy Director Joe Majewski will serve as FMB Liaison to the IFPM Group.

Background and Coordination

The Fire Management Board (FMB) assembled an interagency task team representing the federal fire management agencies to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Standards to determine if the intent and needs of the federal fire management organizations are being met. The task team delivered the report to FMB with review of intent, issues or concerns identified, and possible recommendations to resolve. Subsequently, a multitude of changes have occurred for the agencies; most notably the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law directing creation and implementation of a new distinct wildland firefighter job series. FMB recognizes and continues to agree with original intent of IFPM. However, some issues identified at the time of IFPM creation have been addressed through other mechanisms. FMB recognizes that contextual change and seeks to update IFPM to address the needs of today and the future of fire program management.

Contact:

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