



Memorandum

August 5, 2015

To: Fire Management Board

From: Jim Douglas, Director, DOI Office of Wildland Fire
Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council

Tom Harbour, Director, USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management
Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council

Subject: Medical Standards Program - Leader's Intent

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service (FS) has long recognized the need for common, consistent medical standards policy and guidelines. Firefighters from both organizations work side by side, participate in the same arduous wildland firefighting duties and activities, and in some cases, share the exact same duties (e.g., Service First units). The respective medical qualifications programs should, therefore, provide reciprocity when personnel change employing agencies; and leadership should build reciprocity into the design of each agency's program.

We are committed to a common body of medical standards and program activities that ensure that arduous duty Federal wildland firefighters are medically qualified in accordance with 5 CFR 339 to safely perform their tasks in the wildland fire environment without posing a hazard to themselves or others.

We recognize our differences in issues such as labor relations, human resource processes, contracting, funding, and management delegations necessitate separate implementation; however, we also realize the FS and DOI will achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency through joint efforts and shared functionality in coordinated program management and implementation by the agencies and bureaus whenever and wherever possible.

We expect the Fire Management Board to provide ongoing federal coordination and oversight for implementation, and coordination with non-federal partners as appropriate. The Interagency Medical Standards Team (IMST) functions to develop consistent policies and procedures that form the foundation of the respective DOI and FS medical standards programs.