

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident and Position Standards Committee

IPSC-2020-10

To: Marlene Eno-Hendren, BLM Representative, Incident and Position Standards Committee
From: Thomas M. Hayes, Chair, Incident and Position Standards Committee
Subject: Request for Change Approval Fire and COVID-19 Sticker
Purpose: Response to Request for Change IPSC-RFC-2020-05

Decision: The Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) has accepted and approved Request for Change (RFC) 2020-05, related to creating the Fire and COVID-19 sticker for insertion into the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG). Due to the impacts of this decision, IPSC elevated this decision to the NWCG Executive Board for their concurrence.

Discussion: Firefighter and public safety is our top priority, especially as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Information regarding COVID-19 is extensive, sometimes confusing, and constantly evolving. Additionally, numerous documents have been issued through national, state and local channels to provide wildland firefighters with up-to-date information to prevent COVID-19 infection or provide mitigation measures should an employee exhibit symptoms or test positive for the virus. While the sheer volume of information is overwhelming, providing firefighters with consistent information, placed on a sticker in the IRPG that can be discussed or reviewed on a daily basis, can help focus firefighters on personal actions that may prevent infection or spread of the virus. The information on the sticker is a combination of wildland fire COVID-19 lessons learned incorporating recommendations and edits from the Medical and Public Health Advisory Team and Risk Management Committee.

The IRPG is the one guide all firefighters utilize on a regular basis, carry on assignment, and are the most familiar with. It is recommended the sticker be placed in the IPRG on page 120 after the Emergency Medical Care (red pages) section, following the Medical Incident Report. The sticker will be easily accessible for briefings or for personal review at any time.

Please coordinate with Jesse Bender, NWCG Publications Manager for distribution through the Publication Management System and communication to the field. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Attachment:
Fire and COVID-19 Sticker

Distribution:
Frank Guzman, Chair, NWCG Executive Board
Steve Shaw, NWCG Program Manager (Acting)
Tim Blake, NWCG Coordinator
Deb Fleming, NWCG Coordinator
Jesse Bender, NWCG Publication Manager

Fire and COVID-19

Self-Awareness/Screening

- Immediately separate yourself from others.
- Notify your supervisor if you or other personnel experience:
 - Cough more than expected
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Fever
 - Sore throat
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
- Review and follow crew and division plans to isolate, triage and transport firefighters experiencing a COVID-like illness.

Hygiene on the Fireline

- Properly wash or sanitize your hands often, especially before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, or going into a public place.
- Avoid **touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- Avoid handshakes and communal use items.
- Have a supply of personal hand sanitizer and hand wipes. Inform supervisor of needed resupply.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces often:
 - Radio, phone, doors, pumps, fuel, etc.

Social Distancing and Face Coverings

- Initiate, remind others of, and practice social distancing.
- Conduct briefings and conversations outdoors at least 6 feet apart.
- Utilize face coverings as a tool when practical.
- Clean or replace dirty face coverings, equipment and PPE.

Communications

- Face coverings and social distancing complicates communications. Ensure effective sender/receiver messaging every time.

Protect yourself, your crew, and your camp!