



## National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident and Position Standards Committee

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IPSC-2024-09

**Date:** 6 November 2024  
**To:** Mack McFarland, Chair, Risk Management Committee  
**From:** Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident and Position Standards Committee  
**Subject:** Approval to Rename Safety Officer, Line to Safety Officer Type 3

**Purpose:** This memorandum approves the content of Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) Request for Change (RFC) 2024-05 received from the Risk Management Committee (RMC) to rename Safety Officer, Line (SOFR) to Safety Officer Type 3 (SOF3).

**Action:** Effective January 2025 upon release of the revised *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, the SOFR position will be renamed SOF3. Responders currently qualified as SOFR will be granted the SOF3 qualification. Trainee SOFRs will transition to SOF3 qualification requirements, including completion of the SOF3 position task book (PTB). Documentation of position performance in the SOFR PTB should be considered toward certification. The SOF3 PTB will be available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/position-taskbooks> upon release of the January 2025 PMS 310-1.

The SOFR position will be archived in the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) and the Incident Qualification System (IQC) with the release of the revised PMS 310-1 in January 2025.

**Background and Coordination:** The RMC formed a Safety Officer Improvements subject matter expert group in Spring 2020 to review and revise all safety officer position requirements. With this change, safety officer positions better align with field-based responsibilities of the Safety Officer Field position, which was approved by IPSC in June 2023 ([IPSC Memorandum 2023-06](#)); SOF3 for Type 3 incidents; and Safety Officer Complex (SOFC), for complex incidents. This RFC was coordinated with the RMC Chair.

Direct questions to Mack McFarland, RMC Chair, at [mack\\_mcfarland@nps.gov](mailto:mack_mcfarland@nps.gov), or Michael Froelich and Monica Ramirez, PMS 310-1 stewards, at [michael.froelich@ky.gov](mailto:michael.froelich@ky.gov), and [monica.ramirez@usda.gov](mailto:monica.ramirez@usda.gov).

**Distribution:**

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