



National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident and Position Standards Committee

IPSC-2024-10

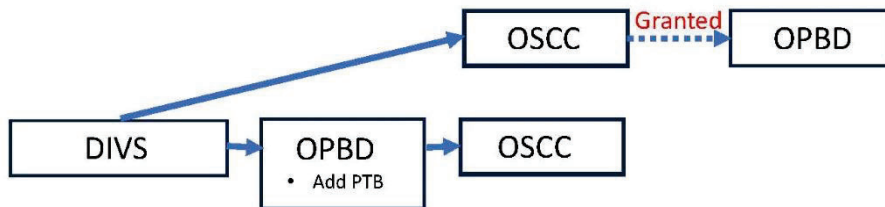
Date: 20 November 2024
To: Ryan Williams, Chair, Incident Operations Subcommittee
From: Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident and Position Standards Committee
Subject: Transition of Operations Branch Director to Complex

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by Michael
Froelich
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Purpose: This memorandum provides direction for transitioning the Operations Branch Director (OPBD) position to Complex. The NWCG Executive Board was briefed on this topic and provided their approval during their May 2024 meeting.

The OPBD qualification standards have been updated to align with the transition to Complex Incident Management (CIM). In the past, the OPBD qualification pathway was to become certified as an Operations Section Chief Type 2 (OCS2), and then the OPBD qualification would be granted. Thus, any responder qualified as Operations Section Chief Type 1 (OSC1) would be qualified as OPBD.

Action: Qualification pathways for OPBD are shown in the graphic below.



When the Operations Section Chief Type Complex (OSCC) qualification is attained, the OPBD qualification may be granted without completing the OPBD Position Task Book. There are no common tasks between the OPBD and OSCC PTBs; these are two standalone PTBs.

Qualification requirements are attached to this memo and will be enforced in the June 2024, NWCG PMS 310-1 Position Catalog. Below is the transition plan for OPBD.

Qualified OPBD and OSC1: To minimize the impact to the field, the process of historical recognition for qualified OPBD and OSC1 responders will be used upon release of the June 2024, NWCG PMS 310-1 Position Catalog.

Qualified OSCC: Responders qualified as Operations Section Chief Complex (OSCC) may be granted the OPBD qualification with no additional requirements upon release of the June 2024, NWCG PMS 310-1 Position Catalog.

Trainee OSCC and OSC1: May be granted the OPBD qualification upon agency certification of the OSCC or OSC1 qualification. OSCC and OSC1 trainees who previously initiated an OSCC/OSC1 PTB and wish to transition to the OPBD qualification pathway before, or instead of, completing an OSCC/OSC1 PTB will be required to initiate and complete the OPBD PTB.

In January 2025, the qualification pathway for OSC1 will be discontinued, and responders with an active OSC1 PTB will transition to the OSCC position PTB.

Background: In Fall 2022, the NWCG Executive Board requested IPSC evaluate transitioning branch director positions to Complex. IPSC tasked the Incident Operations Subcommittee (IOSC) to determine the requirements for transitioning OPBD to Complex. Numerous options were vetted through the NWCG agencies, and two pathways were chosen as the preferred options. IPSC also considered feedback participants voiced during the 2023 Complex Incident Management After Action Review, requesting more options be provided for transitioning positions to Complex. The NWCG Executive Board approved OPBD transition pathways in January 2024. For additional information, contact your [IPSC agency representative](#).

Distribution:

IPSC Committee Members
IOSC, Chair
IPSC Support Staff
IPSC NWCG Coordinator

Operations Branch Director

OPBD Qualification Requirements

Required Training

[NWCG Wildland Fire Position Qualification Flow Chart, PMS 308](#)

- [RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher \(WFSTAR\)](#)
- **[ICS-400, Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff](#)**

Required Experience

- Satisfactory performance as an Operations Section Chief Complex (OSCC)
OR
- Satisfactory performance as an Operations Section Chief Type 1 (OSC1)
OR
- Satisfactory performance as an Operations Section Chief Type 2 (OSC2)
OR
- Satisfactory performance as a Division/Group Supervisor (**[DIVS](#)**)
- AND Completion and Certification of NWCG Operation Branch Director Position Task Book, **[PMS 311-109](#)**

Physical Fitness Level: Moderate

Duties involve fieldwork requiring complete control of all physical faculties and may include considerable walking over irregular ground, standing for long periods of time, lifting 25 to 50 pounds, climbing, bending, stooping, squatting, twisting, and reaching. Occasional demands may be required for moderately strenuous activities in emergencies over long periods. Individuals usually set their own work pace.

These Positions Maintain Currency For OPBD

- Division/Group Supervisor ([DIVS](#))
- Incident Commander Complex ([ICCI](#))
- Incident Commander Type 1 ([ICT1](#))
- Incident Commander Type 2 ([ICT2](#))
- Incident Commander Type 3 ([ICT3](#))
- Operation Section Chief Complex ([OSCC](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 1 ([OSC1](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 2 ([OSC2](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 3, Wildland Fire ([OPS3](#))

OPBD Maintains Currency For These Positions

- Division/Group Supervisor ([DIVS](#))
- Incident Commander Type 3 ([ICT3](#))
- Operation Section Chief Complex ([OSCC](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 1 ([OSC1](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 2 ([OSC2](#))
- Operations Section Chief Type 3, Wildland Fire ([OPS3](#))
- Structure Protection Specialist ([STPS](#))

Other Training Which Supports Development Of Knowledge And Skills

- S-430
- S-420
- O-305
- L-480
- L-481
- L-580