NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

PMC Memorandum 26-001

September 30, 2026

TO: Wildland Fire Community

FROM: Andrew Bailey, Chair, Fire Planning Management Committee (PMC)

ANDREW BAILEY
Digitally signed by ANDREW BAILEY
Date: 2026.10.05 12:33:57 -06'00'

SUBJECT: Transition Plan for Implementing Updates to the Field Observer (FOBS) Position Qualifications

Purpose: This memorandum provides transition guidance to implement updated position qualification requirements for FOBS. Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

Issue/Action: Through the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) effort and reviews conducted by the Incident Planning Subcommittee (IPSC), the PMC has updated the position qualification requirements for FOBS as follows:

- Other Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge And Skills:
  - Add RX-310, Introduction to Fire Effects Course
  - Add RX-410, Smoke Management Techniques
  - S-260, Interagency Incident Business Management

These updates are effective upon publication of the January 2027 revision of the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Positions Qualifications*, PMS 310-1.

Background: Through the IPTM analysis process, the PMC has approved the qualification standard for FOBS.

Contact: For additional information please contact your IPSC agency representative. The member roster can be found at https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/incident-planning-subcommittee.

Distribution:
IPSC
QMC 310-1 Steward
QMC
QSSC

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.