## Chapter 10 Preparedness

### 4 Preparedness

5 Preparedness is the result of activities that are planned and implemented prior to

- 6 wildland fire ignitions. Preparedness is a continuous process that includes
- 7 developing and maintaining unit, state/regional, and national level firefighting
- 8 infrastructure, predicting fire activity, hiring, training, equipping, and deploying
- 9 firefighters, evaluating performance, correcting deficiencies, and improving
- 10 overall operations. The preparedness process includes routine pre-season
- 11 actions as well as incremental in-season actions conducted in response to
- 12 increasing fire danger.
- 13

1

2 3

- 14 Preparedness actions are based on operational plans such as Fire Danger Rating
- 15 Operating Plans (FDROPs). FDROPs use information from decision support
- 16 tools such as the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), the Canadian
- 17 Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS, used in interior Alaska), the
- 18 Palmer Drought Index, live fuel moisture data, Monthly or Seasonal Wildland
- 19 Fire Outlooks, Seasonal Climate Forecasts, and Wildland Fire Risk Analyses.
- 20

## 21 Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan

- 22 A Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan is a fire danger applications guide for
- 23 agency users at the local level. A Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan documents
- <sup>24</sup> the establishment and management of the local unit fire weather station network
- <sup>25</sup> and describes how fire danger ratings are applied to local unit fire management
- <sup>26</sup> decisions. FDROPs should be prepared by individuals trained at the
- 27 Intermediate NFDRS (S-491) level, and preferably the Advanced NFDRS level.
- 28 FDROPs are generally prepared for local interagency areas, such as a zone-wide
- 29 operating plan. Interagency FDROPs are an integral component of unit fire
- <sup>30</sup> management plan(s). Fire danger rating operating plans may be packaged as
- 31 either stand-alone documents or as part of a larger planning effort; such as a fire
- 32 management plan. Fire danger rating operating plans include, but are not
- 33 limited to, the following components:

### 34 • Roles and Responsibilities

- 35 Defined for those responsible for maintenance and daily implementation of
- the plan, program management related to the plan, and associated training.
- 37 Training for development of fire danger rating areas is available through
- 38 NWCG-sponsored NFDRS courses.

### **39 • Operational Procedures**

- 40 This section establishes the procedures used to gather and process data in
- 41 order to integrate fire danger rating information into decision processes.
- 42 The network of fire weather stations whose observations are used to
- 43 determine fire danger ratings is identified. Station maintenance schedules
- 44 are defined as appropriate.

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	NEDDS offers accord to iter of factors deland extract to the second
1	• NFDRS offers several choices of fuel model and output to the user.
2	Distinct selections of fuel model and index/component are appropriate
3	for different management decisions (such as internal readiness or
4	industrial and public restrictions). The choice of NFDRS fuel model
5	and index or component used to determine fire danger ratings to
6	support particular decisions is explained in this section.
7	• NFDRS requires periodic management in order to produce appropriate
8	results that are applied in a timely manner. Some daily observation
9	variables (such as state of the weather, fuels, red flags) are entered
10	manually. This procedure (often called "taking the weather") also
11	initiates the calculation of daily and forecasted outputs in the Weather
12	Information Management System (WIMS) and ensures data storage in
13	the National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database
14	(NIFMID). These efforts are coordinated with the local National
15	Weather Service fire weather meteorologists and Geographic Area
16	Coordination Center (GACC) predictive services meteorologists to
17	provide timely forecasted NFDRS outputs. Observed (afternoon) and forecasted (tomogroup) NEDRS outputs are communicated doily. Live
18	forecasted (tomorrow) NFDRS outputs are communicated daily. Live fuel moisture model inputs (such as herbaceous vegetation stage,
19 20	season code, greenness factor) are adjusted seasonally in WIMS
20	(http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/) at appropriate times. Decision points
21	(such as percentiles discussed below) are determined in FireFamily
22	Plus and reviewed and adjusted annually or more often as appropriate
23	in WIMS and/or other fire danger platforms.
25	<ul> <li>Fire Danger Rating Inventory</li> </ul>
26	Identifies basic components of the operating plan such as dispatch response
20	areas, protection units, administrative units, fire history, land management
28	planning direction, standards, and guidelines, etc. Fire danger rating
29	inventory incorporates NFDRS fuel models, slope classes (topography), and
30	weather/climatology into fire danger rating areas; validates the existing
31	weather station network and identifies any additional stations to support fire
32	danger rating needs.
33	Climatic Breakpoints and Fire Business Thresholds
34	Climatological breakpoints and fire business thresholds are established to
35	provide NFDRS-based decision points for all appropriate management
36	responses in a fire danger rating area. Climatological breakpoints are points
37	on the cumulative distribution of one fire weather/danger index computed
38	from climatology without regard for associated fire occurrence/business.
39	For example, the value of the 90th percentile ERC is the climatological
40	breakpoint at which only 10 percent of the ERC values are greater in value.
41	The percentiles for climatological breakpoints predetermined by agency
42	directive are shown below.
43	• BLM - 80th and 95th percentiles
44	• FWS - 90th and 97th percentiles
45	• NPS - 90th and 97th percentiles
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• FS - 90th and 97th percentiles

2 It is equally important to identify the period or range of data analysis used to

- <sup>3</sup> determine the agency percentiles. The percentile values for 12 months of data
- 4 will be different from the percentile values for the fire season. Year round data

5 should be used for percentiles for severity type decisions, and percentiles based

6 on fire season data for staffing levels and adjective fire danger.

7

1

- 8 Fire business thresholds are values of one or more fire weather/fire danger
- 9 indexes that have been statistically related to occurrence of fires (fire business).
- <sup>10</sup> Generally the threshold is a value or range of values where historical fire
- 11 activity has significantly increased or decreased. Assuming historical climate
- 12 and occurrence patterns can be applied today, fire business thresholds are
- 13 expected to more closely predict significant fire occurrence than climatological
- 14 breakpoints.

15

- 16 Climatological breakpoints or fire business thresholds are used to compute 17 staffing levels and adjective fire danger ratings.
- 18

### 19 Staffing Level

- 20 The Staffing Level is used to make daily internal fire operations decisions. A
- 21 unit can operate with anywhere from 3 to 9 levels of staffing. Most units
- 22 typically use 5 (1,2,3,4,5) or 6 (1,2,3L,3H,4,5) levels. Staffing Level is a direct
- <sup>23</sup> output of the danger rating processor and is based on one of the following:
- 24 NFDRS (Burning Index, Energy Release Component, Spread Component,
- 25 or Ignition Component)
- 26 Keetch-Byram Drought Index

27

## 28 Additional Considerations:

- 29 Palmer Drought Index or other drought index
- 30 Live Fuel Moisture (calculated or sampled)
- 31 Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
- 32 Soil Moisture

33

## 34 Adjective Fire Danger Rating

- 35 Adjective Fire Danger Rating (low, moderate, high, very high, extreme) is based
- 36 on the NFDRS index or component used to compute staffing level and the
- 37 ignition component. It is a general description of fire danger for the purpose of
- <sup>38</sup> informing the public. Adjective ratings are computed automatically in the
- <sup>39</sup> WIMS based on NFDRS parameters provided by local fire managers.

40

- 41 Climatic breakpoints and fire business thresholds are developed with NFDRS
- 42 software, such as FIREFAMILY PLUS, and are applied to appropriate NFDRS
- <sup>43</sup> processors, such as WIMS, to determine daily staffing levels and adjective
- 44 ratings. Training for the FIREFAMILY PLUS program is available at local,
- 45 regional, and national NFDRS courses. Release Date: January 2009

- 1 Fire Danger Pocket Card for Firefighter Safety
- 2 The Fire Danger Pocket Card is used to communicate information on fire danger
- <sup>3</sup> to firefighters. The prime objective of the fire danger rating is to provide a
- 4 measure of the seriousness of local burning conditions. The Pocket Card
- 5 provides a visual reference of those conditions and how they compare to
- 6 previous fire seasons. Pocket Cards are developed and implemented according
- 7 to NWCG guidelines posted at http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-

8 web/pocketcards/default.htm. Fire Danger Pocket Cards are recommended at
9 each local unit where weather data exists.

10 • **BLM/FS** - Fire Danger Pocket Cards are developed for and implemented 11 at each local unit.

12

### 13 Preparedness Plan

14 Preparedness plans provide management direction given identified levels of

- 15 burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment, and are required at
- 16 national, state/regional, and local levels. Preparedness Levels (1-5) are

17 determined by incremental measures of burning conditions, fire activity, and

- 18 resource commitment. The fire danger rating is a critical measure of burning
- 19 conditions. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide for more
- 20 information on preparedness plans.

21

## 22 Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans

23 Preparedness Level/Step-up Plans are designed to direct incremental

- 24 preparedness actions in response to increasing fire danger. Those actions are
- 25 delineated by "staffing levels." Each Step-Up Plan should address the five
- $_{26}$  preparedness levels (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the corresponding planned actions that
- 27 are intended to mitigate those fire danger conditions. Several assessment tools
- <sup>28</sup> are available to measure fire danger.

29

- 30 Outputs from the fire danger rating operating plan process, such as staffing
- 31 levels, are used to support the decisions found in staffing plans, step-up staffing
- <sup>32</sup> plans, preparedness levels, dispatch response plans, dispatch response levels,
- <sup>33</sup> etc. Increasing fire danger results in increasing staffing levels, suggesting a
- 34 corresponding increase in preparedness actions intended to mitigate those fire
- 35 danger conditions.

36

- <sup>37</sup> The Staffing Plan describes escalating responses that are pre-approved in the fire
- <sup>38</sup> management plan. Mitigating actions are designed to enhance the unit's fire
- <sup>39</sup> management capability during short periods (one burning period, Fourth of July
- <sup>40</sup> or other pre-identified events) where normal staffing cannot meet initial attack,
- 41 prevention, or detection needs. The difference between preparedness level/step-
- <sup>42</sup> up and severity is that preparedness level/step-up actions are established in the
- <sup>43</sup> unit fire management plan, and implemented by the unit when those pre-
- 44 identified conditions are experienced. Severity is a longer duration condition
- 45 that cannot be adequately dealt with under normal staffing, such as a killing frost

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- 1 converting live fuel to dead fuel or drought conditions. Severity is discussed
- 2 later in this chapter.

3

8

- 4 Mitigating actions identified in the fire management plan should include, but are 5 not limited to, the following items:
- 6 Management direction and considerations
- Fire prevention actions, including closures/restrictions, media messages,
- signing, and patrolling
- 9 Prepositioning suppression resources
- 10 Cooperator discussion and/or involvement
- 11 Safety considerations: safety message, safety officer
- 12 Augmentation of suppression forces
- 13 Support function: consideration given to expanded dispatch activation,
- initial attack dispatch staffing, and other support needs (procurement,
- supply, ground support, and communication)
- Support staff availability outside of fire organization
- 17 Communication of Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions
- Fire danger/behavior assessment
- 19 Briefings for management and fire suppression personnel
- 20 Fire information internal and external
- <sup>21</sup> Multi-agency coordination groups/area command activation
- 22 Prescribed fire direction and considerations
- 23 Increased detection activities

24

## 25 Fire Management Organization Assessment

- 26 The Fire Management Organization Assessment is a short checklist that agency
- 27 administrators may use to identify conditions associated with heavy fire activity
- 28 that may overload the local fire staff, reducing its effectiveness to manage the
- 29 situation. Identifying these conditions may help the agency administrator
- 30 determine whether increasing staffing levels might be an appropriate action to 31 take. See Appendix K.
- 32

### 33 Seasonal Risk Analysis

- 34 A Seasonal Risk Analysis (SRA) requires fire managers to review current and
- 35 predicted weather and fuels information, compare this information with historic
- <sup>36</sup> weather and fuels records, and predict the upcoming fire season's severity and
- 37 duration for any given area. It is important to incorporate drought indices into
- 38 this assessment.
- 39
- <sup>40</sup> Information from a SRA can be used to modify the Annual Operating Plan
- 41 (AOP), step-up and pre-attack plans. It provides the basis for actions such as
- <sup>41</sup> (XOF), step-up and pre-attack plans. It provides the basis for actions such as <sup>42</sup> prepositioning critical resources, requesting additional funding, or modifying
- 42 propositioning eriteral resources, requesting additional running, or includes
   43 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to meet anticipated needs.
- 43 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to meet antic

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- 1 Each unit selects, and compares to normal, the current value and seasonal trend
- 2 of one or more of the following indicators which are most useful in predicting
- <sup>3</sup> fire season severity and duration in its area:
- 4 NFDRS (or CFFDRS) index values (ERC, BI)
- 5 Temperature levels
- 6 Precipitation levels
- 7 Humidity levels
- 8 Palmer Drought or Standardized Precipitation Index
- 9 1000-hour fuel moisture (timber fuels)
- 10 Vegetation moisture levels
- 11 Live fuel moisture (brush fuels)
- 12 Curing rate (grass fuels)
- 13 Episodic wind events (moisture drying days)
- Unusual weather events (early severe frost)
- 15 Fires to date
- 16

The seasonal trend of each selected indicator is graphically compared to normaland all-time worst. This comparison is updated regularly and posted in dispatch

19 and crew areas.

20

- 21 If the SRA suggests an abnormal fire season might be anticipated, a unit should
- 22 notify the state/regional office and request additional resources commensurate
- 23 with the escalated risk. SRA for each geographic area are prepared, issued, and
- 24 updated each year by GACC Predictive Service staffs. These analyses consider
- 25 detailed information for each of the Predictive Services Areas (PSA) within the
- 26 geographic area.

27

- 28 Seasonal Assessment Workshops are conducted to facilitate these seasonal
- 29 outlook reports. Local risk analyses should be compiled at the state/regional
- 30 office to determine the predicted fire season severity within the state/region, and
- 31 then forwarded to the respective national office for use in determining national
- 32 fire preparedness needs. Risk analysis is ongoing. It should be reviewed
- 33 periodically and revised when significant changes in key indicators occur. All
- <sup>34</sup> reviews of seasonal risk analysis, even if no changes are made, should be
- 35 documented.

36

# 37 Fire Severity Funding

- <sup>38</sup> Fire severity funding is the authorized use of suppression operations funds
- 39 (normally used exclusively for suppression operations, and distinct from

40 preparedness funds) for extraordinary preparedness activities that are required41 due to:

- 42 the fire management plan, fire danger rating operating plan, or annual
- 43 operating plan should identify thresholds that would indicate need for44 severity resources

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- 1 an abnormal increase in fire potential or danger.
- 2 fire seasons that either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire
- management plan.

3 4

5 The objective of fire severity funding is to mitigate losses by improving6 suppression response capability.

- 8 When suppression resources that were acquired through the approved fire
- 9 planning process (e.g. NFMAS, IIAA, FPA) are insufficient to meet the
- 10 extraordinary need, suppression resources may be requested through the severity
- 11 funding process. Fire severity funding is not intended to raise preparedness
- 12 funding levels to cover differences that may exist between funds actually
- <sup>13</sup> appropriated and those identified in the fire planning process.

14

## 15 Typical Uses

- 16 Severity funds are typically used to:
- 17 Increase prevention activities
- 18 Temporarily increase firefighting staffing
- 19 Pay for standby
- 20 Preposition initial attack suppression forces
- 21 Provide additional aerial reconnaissance
- 22 Provide for standby aircraft availability

23

## 24 Authorization

- 25 Authorization to use severity funding is provided in writing based on a written
- <sup>26</sup> request with supporting documentation. Authorization is on a line item basis
- 27 and comes with a severity cost code. Agencies will follow their administrative
- 28 procedures for issuing severity cost codes. Authorization is provided for a
- <sup>29</sup> maximum of 30 days per request; however, regardless of the length of the
- <sup>30</sup> authorization, use of severity funding must be terminated when abnormal
- 31 conditions no longer exist. If the fire severity situation extends beyond the 30
- 32 day authorization, the State/Region must prepare a new severity request.

33

## 34 State/Regional Level Severity Funding

- 35 Each fiscal year the national office will provide each state/region with \$300,000
- 36 and a severity cost code for state/regional short-term severity needs (e.g., wind
- 37 events, cold dry front passage, lightning events, and unexpected events such as
- <sup>38</sup> off road rallies that are expected to last less than one week). Expenditure of
- <sup>39</sup> these funds is authorized by the state/regional directors at the written request of
- 40 the agency administrator. State/regional directors are responsible and
- 41 accountable for ensuring that these funds are used only to meet severity funding
- 42 objectives and that amounts are not exceeded. The national office will notify the
- 43 state/regional director, state/regional budget officer, and the state/regional FMO
- <sup>44</sup> when the severity cost code is provided.

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- FWS Short-term severity or "step-up" cost codes are established yearly 1
- (at the Regional level) as PER1, PER2, etc (numeric value indicates the 2 specific region utilizing short-term severity funding). 3
- **NPS** Parks have the authority to approve "Step-up" actions only, as 4 . defined in their fire management plan. Regional offices approve severity 5 6
  - (long term up to 30 days) for parks up to \$100,000 per severity event.

FS - Severity funding direction is found in FSM 5190. 7 •

#### **National Level Severity Funding** 9

- National Agency Fire Directors or their delegates are authorized to allocate fire 10
- severity funding under specific conditions stated or referenced in this chapter. 11
- Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the appropriate approving official at 12
- the written request of the state/regional director. Approved severity funding will 13
- be used only for the preparedness activities and timeframes specifically outlined 14
- in the authorization, and only for the objectives stated above. 15
- NPS National office approves all requests over \$100,000. • 16

17

8

#### **Appropriate Severity Funding Charges** 18

19

#### Labor 20

- Appropriate labor charges include: 21
- Regular pay for non-fire personnel 22 •
- Regular pay for seasonal/temporary fire personnel outside their normal fire 23 . funded activation period 24
- Overtime pay for all fire and non-fire personnel 25 .
- Severity funded personnel and resources must be available for immediate 26 • 27
- initial attack regardless of the daily task assignment
- Severity funded personnel and resources will not use a severity cost code • 28 while assigned to wildfires. The wildfire firecode number will be used. 29
- 30

#### Vehicles and Equipment 31

- GSA lease rate and mileage 32 ٠
- Hourly rate or mileage for Agency owned vehicles 33 •
- Commercial rentals and contracts 34
- FWS Repair and maintenance of Fish and Wildlife vehicles and 35 • equipment; FWS does not have a Use Rate covering these charges. 36

37

Aviation 38

#### This includes: 39

- Contract extensions 40 •
- The daily minimum for call when needed (CWN) aircraft 41 .
- Preposition flight time 42
- Support expenses necessary for severity funded aircraft (facility rentals, 43 .
- utilities, telephones, etc.) 44

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### 1 Travel and Per Diem

2 Severity funded personnel in travel status are fully subsisted by the government

- <sup>3</sup> in accordance with their agency regulations. Costs covered include:
- 4 Lodging
- 5 Government provided meals (in lieu of per diem)
- 6 Airfare (including returning to their home base)
- 7 Privately owned vehicle mileage (with prior approval)
- 8 Other miscellaneous travel and per diem expenses associated with the
- 9 assignment

10

# 11 Prevention Activities

- 12 These include:
- Funding Prevention Teams (Preventions teams will be mobilized as referred
   in the National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20)
- 15 Implementing local prevention campaigns, to include community risk
- assessment, mitigation planning, outreach, and education
- 17 Augmenting patrols
- Note: Non-fire funded prevention team members should charge base 8 and
- overtime to the severity cost code for the length of the prevention activitiesassignment. Fire funded personnel should charge overtime only to the
- assignment. The funded personnel should charge overtime only to the
   severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities assignment.

22

## 23 • Inappropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges

- To cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated (including rescissions) and those identified in the fire planning process
- Administrative surcharges, indirect costs, fringe benefits
- 27 Equipment purchases
- <sup>28</sup> Purchase, maintenance, repair, or upgrade of vehicles
- 29 Purchase of radios
- 30 Purchase of telephones
- <sup>31</sup> Purchase of pumps, saws, and similar suppression equipment
- 32 Aircraft availability during contract period
- 33 Cache supplies which are normally available in fire caches
- 34 Fixed ownership rate vehicle costs

35

## 36 Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements

- 37 Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) are used during emergency
- <sup>38</sup> incidents under authorities that allow for direct, non-competitive ordering using
- <sup>39</sup> established procedures in the event of immediate threat to life and property.
- 40 EERAs will not be used for non-emergency activities, including severity
- 41 activities, rehabilitation projects, and hazardous fuels projects.
- 42
- 43
- 44

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### 1 Interagency Requests

- 2 Agencies working cooperatively in the same geographic area should work
- 3 together to generate and submit joint requests, and to utilize severity funded
- <sup>4</sup> resources in an interagency manner. However, each agency should request
- 5 funds only for its own agency specific needs. The joint request should be routed
- <sup>6</sup> simultaneously through each agency's approval system, and the respective
- 7 approving official will issue an authorization that specifies allocations by

8 agency.

### 9

# 10 Requesting Fire Severity Funding

- 11 Fire severity funding requests should be submitted on the Interagency Severity
- 12 Funding Request Form found at the website listed below. The completed and
- 13 signed request is submitted from the state/regional director to the appropriate
- 14 approving official as per the sequence of action outlined below. Authorizations
- 15 will be returned in writing.

16

17 The interagency standard format for fire severity funding requests may be found

18 at: http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red\_book/2009/ISFRF.doc.

1920 The BLM severity request form is at:

- 21 http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/fireops/severity.html
- 22
- 23 Sequence of Action and Responsible Parties for Severity Funding Requests

Action	Responsible Party
Identify and develop severity funding request.	Unit FMO
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) request. Forward to state/regional office.	Unit agency administrator
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) unit request. Add state/regional needs and consolidate. Forward to state/regional director for approval within 48 hours.	State/Regional FMO
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) request. Forward to the appropriate National Fire Director/approving official within 48 hours. Notify the fire budget staff.	State/Regional Director
Review, modify, and approve (or reject) the request within 48 hours. Issue written authorization with a severity cost code.	Appropriate National Fire Director/Approving Official
Establish severity cost code in the appropriate finance system within 24 hours.	Applicable National Finance System
Notify unit office(s) and state/regional budget lead upon receipt of authorization.	State/Regional FMO

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Execute severity cost code. Ensure that project expenditures are only used for authorized purposes.	Unit Office
Maintain severity files, including requests, authorizations, and summary of expenditures and activities.	Unit/State/Regional/ National Offices

1

## 2 Labor Cost Coding For Severity Funded Personnel

<sup>3</sup> Fire personnel outside their normal activation period, employees whose regular

- 4 salary is not fire funded, and Administratively Determined (AD) employees
- 5 hired under an approved severity request should charge regular time and
- 6 approved non-fire overtime to the severity suppression operations subactivity
- 7 and the requesting office's severity cost code.
- 8
- 9 Fire funded personnel should charge their regular planned salary (base-eight) to
- 10 their budgeted subactivity using their home unit's location code. Overtime
- 11 associated with the severity request should be charged to the severity
- 12 suppression operations subactivity and the requesting office's severity cost code.
- 14 Regular hours worked in suppression operations will require the use of the
- 15 appropriate fire subactivity with the appropriate firecode number. Overtime in
- 16 fire suppression operations will be charged to the suppression operations
- <sup>17</sup> subactivity with the appropriate firecode number.

18

- 19 Employees from non-federal agencies should charge their time in accordance
- <sup>20</sup> with the approved severity request and the appropriate local and statewide
- 21 agreements. A task order for reimbursement will have to be established and is
- 22 authorized under the Interagency Agreement for Fire Management.
- FS Labor Cost Coding. Forest Service severity funding direction in FSM
   5190 provides agency specific direction.
- 25

### 26 Documentation

27 The state/regional and national office will document and file accurate records of

- 28 severity funding activity. This will include complete severity funding requests,
- 29 written authorizations, and expenditure records.

30

### 31 Severity Funding Reviews

- 32 State/regional and national offices should ensure appropriate usage of severity
- <sup>33</sup> funding and expenditures. This may be done as part of their normal agency fire
- <sup>34</sup> program review cycle. The severity funding audit checklist may be used as a
- 35 guide for this process. Interagency Preparedness Review checklists can be 36 found at:
- 37 http://www.nifc.gov/policies/preparedness reviews/preparedness reviews.htm
- **BLM** Severity funding is not a reviewed item of the BLM national
- Preparedness Review. BLM Preparedness Review Checklists can be found
   at:

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- 1 http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/fireops/preparedness/preparedness\_
- review/checklists.html
- 2 3
- 4 Fire Prevention/Mitigation
- 5
- 6 Wildland Fire Cause Determination & Fire Trespass

7 Agency policy requires any wildfire to be investigated to determine cause,

8 origin, and responsibility.

9

- 10 For all human-caused fires where the guilty party has been determined, actions
- 11 must be taken to recover the cost of suppression activities, land rehabilitation,
- 12 and damages to the resources and improvements.

13

# 14 Wildland Fire Mitigation and Prevention

15 Fire programs are required to fund and implement unit level Fire Prevention

16 Plans by completing a wildland mitigation/prevention assessment. The purpose

17 of this is to reduce undesirable human caused ignitions, to reduce damages and

18 losses caused by unwanted wildland fires, and to reduce the suppression costs of

- 19 wildland fires. Wildland fire mitigation/prevention programs based on the Risk
- 20 Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) process can reduce damages and
- 21 losses during periods of average weather, fuels, and human activity. As weather
- 22 and fuel conditions move from average to above average or severe, and/or
- 23 human activity increases, mitigation and prevention activities must be
- 24 strengthened to maintain effectiveness.

25

- 26 Prevention includes education (sign posting plans, school programs, radio and
- 27 news releases, recreation contacts, local business contacts, exhibits), industrial
- <sup>28</sup> program monitoring (timber, mining, power line maintenance operations),
- reconnaissance patrols, and other activities to prevent and mitigate wildfiredamage, and loss.
- 31 *NPS Only units that experience more than an average 26 human caused*
- 32 *fires per ten-year period are required to develop a fire prevention plan,*
- based upon a prevention analysis such as RAMS; however, use of this
- *software is not required.*
- FS Forest Service direction for wildland prevention and investigation is
   found in FSM 5110 and 5300.

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