

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
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April 21, 1999

In Reply Refer To:
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Information Bulletin No. OF&A 99-054

To: All Field Officials

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: 1999 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System
Guide, PMS 310-1

DD: 9/15/99

The March 1999 *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide* PMS 310-1 has been completed and will be available for review and distribution to the field sometime in May 1999 through the Publications Management System and via the Internet NWCG home page. **It is estimated that on January 1, 2000, the March 1999 revision of the PMS 310-1 will be fully implemented as the official document of minimum interagency training and qualification standards for wildland and prescribed fire assignments. In the interim, we will continue operating under the standards of the existing October 1993 PMS 310-1 *Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide* and the February 1995 *Part 2-Prescribed Fire Guide* through the remainder of 1999. Bureau guidance regarding qualifications, certification, record keeping, and red cards can be found in *Standards for Fire Operations*.**

Comments on inherent flaws in structure and application of this document should be submitted to Rick Jensen, Office of Fire and Aviation, for consolidation and submission to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Comments must be received no later than September 15, 1999. Prior to September 1999, the March 1999, PMS 310-1 should be reviewed by the field to expose employees to the document, to allow them to compare the new standards established with those currently in place, and determine how it may affect them personally. We encourage and expect good information sharing of the wildland and prescribed fire training and qualifications standards in the March 1999 PMS 310-1 to occur in the field this fire season.

Attached is the Executive Summary of the March 1999 PMS 310-1, which provides an overview of the changes in qualifications between the 1993 and the 1999 guides. If you have any questions, please call Rick Jensen at 208-387-5710.

Signed by:
Lester K. Rosenkrance
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
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1 - Attachment
1 - Executive Summary (6 pp.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The following summarizes the 1999 revision of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide PMS 310-1, and identifies major changes between the 1993 and 1999 guides. The process for this version began in 1997. This revision involved field review; solicitation of comments from state and federal agencies under the NWCG umbrella; the combined efforts of the Training Working Team, the Fire Use Working Team and the Incident Operations Standards Working Team. Through three drafts over two year's time, these efforts have resulted in this interim guide for the 1999 fire season.

Objectives

- Establish minimum interagency training and qualification standards for wildland and prescribed fire assignments.
- Retain the foundation of the performance based system established and implemented in the 1993 version of this guide.
- Strengthen the training and qualification standards of those positions identified in: agenda reviews; as a result of national studies; issues related to fireline safety; and as a result of Subject Matter Expert (SME) input during curricula development and this revision process.
- Hold to a minimum of required training and allow for the development of skills and knowledge outside of the formal classroom environment.
- Address the confusion associated with the term "Suggested Training."
- Eliminate redundancy, unnecessary positions and requirements.
- Simplify and combine multiple qualification documents to provide ease of use for field users.

Although not an objective of the PMS 310-1 revision, the Wildland Fire Qualification System, National Training Curriculum, has been developed to further aid users with the application and administration of the system.

Major Changes

- PMS 310-1, parts 1 and 2, have been combined. This has resulted in prescribed fire positions being placed in the appropriate functional area and a combining of certain suppression and prescribed fire positions.
- PMS 330-1, the Task Book Administrator's Guide, has been discontinued and the text added to PMS 310-1 as an appendix. This puts all of the information pertaining to the Qualification System under one cover.
- Some course requirements, particularly those essential to providing safe incident operations, have been added. This is in response to: agency and state comments; recommendations from ad hoc committees formed as a result of issues raised in the Federal Fire Policy Review; the findings of the TriData Corporation's study of firefighter safety; and interagency SME review and input.
- In some instances requirements have actually been lowered, if in doing so, the standard for safe and efficient operations could be maintained. The focus of all efforts has been to keep required courses to a minimum.
- The category previously known as "Suggested Training" has been deleted and identified as the "Knowledge and Skills Needed" to perform satisfactorily in a position. This provides clarification that users can obtain the necessary knowledge and skills for a position through identified curricula and/or a variety of other forums. Additionally, clarification text has been added to the PMS 310-1.
- Although not a major change, direction on the Fire Behavior Analyst, the Prescribed Fire Behavior Analyst, and the qualification standards for those positions remain an issue. The standards in this revision will reflect those that were contained in the 1993 and 1995 versions of parts 1 and 2, pending resolution.

Guidance

With the publication of this edition of PMS 310-1 the standards established in this guide are to be met by all participating agencies. Individuals who have begun the process of qualifying for a position under the 1993 edition can continue to use those standards as long as they complete the process within three years from initiation.

Specifically, any 1993 Position Task Book initiated prior to December 31, 1999 and completed by December 31, 2002 will be accepted. Additionally, any individual who has begun the evaluation process need not take any newly required course(s) for that position.

In order to provide the NWCG users the opportunity to use and implement this revision as planned, this guide is being published as interim direction for the 1999 field season. This will provide administrators and local units the opportunity to judge clarity and ease of application.

Comments on inherent flaws in structure and application must be made through the appropriate agency official to the IOSWT no later than September 30, 1999.

Summary Charts

The charts on the following three pages provide an overview of the changes in qualifications between the 1993 and the 1999 guides:

Required Training: Displays any additions or deletions to required training by position, the number of hours added or deleted, and course number.

Prerequisite Experience: Displays by position, any change in prerequisite experience from the 1993 version of the PMS 310-1, to the 1999 version of the PMS 310-1.

Added/Deleted Positions: Displays those positions that have been added or deleted to the 1999 guide.

REQUIRED TRAINING	+	-
Position	added (hours)	deleted (hours)
Area Commander	S-620 (32)	
Incident Commander Type 2	S-420 (32)	
Incident Commander Type 5	PMS 427 (4)	
Information Officer Type 1	S-520 (80)	
Information Officer Type 2	S-420 (32)	
Operations Section Chief Type 1	S-430 (16), S-420 (32)	
Division Group Supervisor	S-339 (20)	
Task Force Leader		S-330 (24), S-390 (16)
Strike Team Leader Crew	S-205 (28)	
Crew Representative	S-205 (28)	
Single Resource Boss Crew	S-230 (24)	
Single Resource Boss Dozer	S-230 (24), S-232 (16), S-205 (28)	
Single Resource Boss Felling	S-230 (24), S-212 (28)	
Single Resource Boss Firing	S-230 (24), S-234 (24)	
Single Resource Boss Engine	S-230 (24), S-231 (8), S-205 (28)	
Single Resource Boss Tractor/Plow	S-230 (24), S-233 (12), S-205 (28)	
Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss	S-131 (8)	
Area Command Aviation Coordinator	S-620 (32)	
Helicopter Manager		S-290 (32)
Assistant Area Commander, Planning	S-620 (32)	
Planning Section Chief Type 2	S-420 (32)	
Prescribed Fire Behavior Analyst	S-390 (16), S-492 (36), S-493 (36)	
Prescribed Fire Behavior Specialist		S-390 (16)
Prescribed Fire Behavior Monitor		S-290 (32)
Assistant Area Commander, Logistics	S-620 (32)	
Logistics Section Chief Type 2	S-420 (32)	
Food Unit Leader	S-357 (32)	
Finance/Admin. Section Chief Type 2	S-420 (32)	
Supervisory Dispatcher		S-190 (6)

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

Position	1993	1999
Area Commander	ICT1	ACPC or ACLC
Incident Commander Type 5		FFT1
Safety Officer Type 3		any STL or ICT4
Liaison Officer	ICT3	None
Interagency Resource Representative	None	CREP
Fire Use Manager		RXB1
Division Group Supervisor	TFLD or any STL + ICT4	TFLD
Task Force Leader	any SRB + ICT4	any STL
Area Command Aviation Coordinator		AOBD
Helicopter Manager	HECM + FFT1	HECM + ICT4
Helicopter Coordinator	HEMG	HEMG + TFLD
Deck Coordinator		TOLC
Take-off and Landing Coordinator		ABRO
Aircraft Base Radio Operator		HECM
Assistant Area Commander, Planning	PSC1	any Type 1 General Staff Position
Assistant Area Commander, Logistics	LSC1	any Type 1 General Staff Position
Situation Unit Leader	TFLD or any STL + ICT4	any STL
Training Specialist	TFLD or any STL or any Planning Unit Leader	None
Prescribed Fire Behavior Analyst	FBAN or RXFS + RXI2	FBAN or FOBS + any SRB
Fire Effects Monitor		FFT2
Communications Unit Leader	INCM	INCM + COMT
Procurement Unit Leader	EQTR	None

ADDED/DELETED POSITIONS		
	+	-
Position	Added	Deleted
Incident Commander Type 5	X	
Safety Officer Type 3	X	
Fire Use Manager	X	
Area Command Aviation Coordinator	X	
Prescribed Fire Monitor	X	
Incident Communications Technician	X	
Radio Operator	X	
Deck Coordinator	X	
Take-off and Landing Coordinator	X	
Aircraft Base Radio Operator	X	
Prescribed Fire Ignition Specialist Type 1 ¹		X
Prescribed Fire Ignition Specialist Type 2 ¹		X
Prescribed Fire Behavior Specialist		X
Prescribed Fire Behavior Monitor ²		X

¹ These two positions have been deleted and combined into Single Resource Boss Firing position. The tasks have been combined with those in the Single Resources Boss Firing position task book.

² This position has been deleted and combined with Field Observer position. The tasks have been combined into the Field Observer position task book.