



CHAPTER 5: NIIMS WILDLAND FIRE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM GUIDE (PMS 310-1)

INTRODUCTION

The *NIIMS Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1*, commonly referred to as *PMS 310-1* or *310-1* (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm>), is designed to provide guidance for participating agencies of NWCG. The guide establishes minimum standards required for all Incident Command System and skill positions which all participating agencies have agreed to meet for national mobilization purposes. These minimum standards include physical fitness, required training, and prerequisite experience.

POLICY

Bureau policy dictates that only qualified personnel will be assigned duties in wildland fire suppression or prescribed fire. All employees assigned dedicated fire program management responsibilities at the local, geographic area, or national levels shall meet established interagency and agency competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) and associated qualifications. NWCG's *National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1* is the policy.

Bureau personnel will always meet the training, certification, and qualification processes outlined in the 310-1. However, the Bureau may place higher standards on training, certification, and qualification issues as noted in Chapter 3.

In blended units (Forest Service and BLM), Bureau personnel will follow the 310-1 and the higher standards noted in Chapter 3. Bureau personnel will not follow the *Forest Service 5109.17 Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook*.

Core Concepts and Information Found in the 310-1

Bureau Training Officers and fire personnel need to read and become familiar with the 310-1 to strengthen their knowledge in training, qualifications and certification issues.

A few of the topics covered in the 310-1 include:

- Description of the performance based system
- Certification and recertification
- Position qualifications
- Physical fitness levels
- Review and update process for the 310-1 and position task books
- Position task book (PTB) design and use
- Position categories
- Review and update process for the 310-1 and position task books
- Qualifications for command and general staff positions