



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Fire and Aviation

3833 S. Development Avenue

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June 1, 2007

In Reply Refer To:  
9210 (FA-300) P

EMS Transmission 06/01/07  
Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2007-016  
Expires: 09/30/08

To: All Field Offices

From: Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC)

Subject: Forest Service Handbook 5109.17 - Fire and Aviation Qualifications Handbook and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fire Training Policy

**Program Area:** Fire Management

**Purpose:** Establish BLM Fire Training Policy for BLM units in blended (multi-agency) fire management organizations.

**Policy/Action:** BLM employees working in blended fire management organizations will meet the BLM training and certification requirements as required by the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*, which states on page 13-1 that, "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. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide* PMS 310-1 is the policy."

Local interagency operating agreements may recommend training that is supplemental to 310-1 requirements, but BLM employees who have met established 310-1 criteria will be certified in the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) by the Certifying Official.

**Time Frame:** Effective immediately

**Budget Impact:** None

**Background:** BLM managers in several blended fire management organizations have required BLM employees to meet the Forest Service Handbook 5109.17 training requirements prior to being certified in IQCS. This practice is not supported by BLM Fire and Aviation for a variety of reasons:

- It is contrary to bureau manual policy.

- It results in the expenditure of government funds for training beyond bureau policy.
- It results in inconsistent policy implementation in the fields of training and certification.
- It puts certain bureau employees at a competitive employment disadvantage to fellow agency employees and to employees of other agencies.
- It leads to contradictory, ambiguous, and/or redundant direction to employees.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** This IM supplements existing BLM training and qualifications policy defined in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*.

**Coordination:** This instruction memorandum has been coordinated with the Fire and Aviation Divisions of Fire Operations, Fire Management Training, and the BLM National Fire Operations Committee.

**Contact:** Rick Jensen, Fire and Aviation Division of Fire Operations, 208-387-5710.

**Union:** Offices with unions must follow negotiated procedures.

Signed by:  
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Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC)

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