




**United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Fire Management Branch
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705**



Refer to: FMB190009

February 5, 2019

Memorandum

To: Fire Management Coordinators, Regions 1-8
From: Chief, Branch of Fire Management 
Subject: 2019 FWS Fire Management Handbook Release

The FWS Fire Management Handbook (Handbook) has been updated for 2019. This version replaces the 2018 Handbook. Bound copies of the 2019 Handbook will not be distributed. The Handbook may be downloaded from: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/handbook/index.shtml>.

The Handbook is intended to serve as a program reference guide documenting the standards for operational procedures and practices for fire management activities in the Service. Based on current Service and Departmental policy and Federal Regulations, these standards and practices are intended to provide program guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and effective wildland fire operations.

The Handbook is formatted similarly to the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724). To minimize duplication the Handbook references supplemental guidance in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations and other common sources.

Significant changes in the 2019 Handbook are described in the attached list. The Handbook will be updated annually in January to coincide with annual updates of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations. Please contact your Region's representative to the FWS National Fire Operations and Safety Team if you have suggestions for improving the Handbook.

Attachment

cc:
ARD, NWRS Regions 1-8
Chief, Division of Natural Resources
Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System
Staff, Branch of Fire Management