



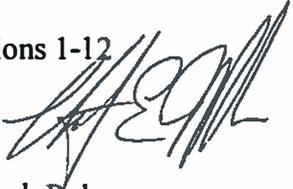
United States Department of the Interior
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Fire Management Branch
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705



Refer to: FMB202010

January 31, 2020

Memorandum

To: Fire Management Coordinators, Regions 1-12
From: Chief, Branch of Fire Management 
Subject: 2020 FWS Fire Management Handbook Release

The FWS Fire Management Handbook (Handbook) has been updated for 2020. This version replaces the 2019 Handbook. Bound copies of the 2020 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 2020 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: Significant Changes - 2020 FMH

cc:
ARD, DOI Regions 1-12
Chief, Division of Natural Resources
Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System
Staff, Branch of Fire Management

Significant Changes – FMH – 2020

Chapter 4 – FWS

- Under table “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” for FWS Director, Regional Director, Regional Chief/Refuge Supervisor, and Project Leader/Refuge Manager:
 - Removed requirement in block 1 for FWS Director and Regional Director to ensure any standards developed are compliant with agency wildland fire policies.
 - Removed requirement in block 2 for FWS Director and Regional Director to ensure use of fire funds is in compliance with department and agency policies.
 - Removed requirement in block 3 for FWS Director and Regional Director to attend M-581 or Agency Administrator Training Workshop hosted by the Prescribed Fire Training Center.
 - Removed requirement in block 6 for FWS Director to ensure all fire management activities are supported by a current Fire Management Plan (FMP) with documented annual updates and are integrated with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
 - Removed requirement in block 19 for FWS Director to ensure only trained and certified fire and non-fire personnel are available to support fire operations at the local, geographic, and national levels.
- Clarified text under heading “Fire Reporting” regarding field units will report wildland fire occurrence and fire status to their local dispatch office and Regional Fire Management Coordinator or designee.
- Under heading “Physical Fitness and Conditioning,” inserted new subheading “National Fire Operations Fitness Challenge” and associated text.
- Revised table under subheading “FWS Firefighter General Training Requirements,” table “Agency Permanent, Career Seasonal, and Temporary Firefighters” regarding “Required Training,” “Initial/Requirement/Frequency,” “Completion/Tracking Method,” and “Reference.”

Chapter 17 – Fuels Management

- Removed BLM-specific text under heading “Policy” from refer to FA IM 2015-003 and inserted reference BLM Fuels Management Manual 9214 and Handbook 9214-1, Chapter 5.