

1 **Chapter 8**  
2 **Interagency Coordination and Cooperation**

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4 The Service Fire Management Handbook incorporates, by reference, all  
5 guidance in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)  
6 (Redbook, NFES #2724) Chapter 08 in addition to the following Service specific  
7 clarifications:

8 Regional Fire Management Coordinators (RFMC), with the assistance of the  
9 Zone Fire Management Officer (ZFMO), are responsible for ensuring that  
10 Refuges within their Regions have appropriate initial attack response  
11 alternatives identified, coordinated and documented appropriately in the  
12 associated planning documents.

13 Refuge Managers/Project Leaders are responsible for arranging for appropriate  
14 initial attack response capability for all FWS units with a fire occurrence history  
15 within their zone of responsibility. This can be accomplished through any of the  
16 following means:

- 17 • FWS employees and equipment (fire funded and/or collateral duty) that  
18 meet the minimum NWCG PMS 310-1 qualification requirements for  
19 suppression response, and provide adequate capability to safely and  
20 effectively initial attack fires.
- 21 • State and local cooperating agencies with an agreement or a legal  
22 responsibility to provide fire suppression to the unit.
- 23 • Business organizations providing suppression services for a fee  
24 requiring upfront annual payment.

25 **Considerations for Utilization of State or Local Fire Departments**

- 26 • Many fire departments or wildland fire agencies are required by law to  
27 respond to all fires in their protection area. If protection is required by  
28 law, FWS lands cannot be excluded and the FWS will not provide  
29 reimbursement for any services provided.
- 30 • Some FWS lands may lie in areas where fire protection is not required  
31 by law or where fire protection is funded through service charges.  
32 These units may establish fire protection agreements with nearby fire  
33 agencies. These agreements must be reviewed by the RFMC and  
34 warranted contracting officer as appropriate prior to approval.
- 35 • Mutual Aid Agreements were common in the past, but require that all  
36 participants contribute on a basis comparable with other participants.  
37 These agreements may no longer be appropriate where the Service  
38 lacks the capability to provide comparable assistance.

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**1 Considerations for Payments of Suppression Service**

- 2 • Payments can only be made if there is an appropriate agreement or
- 3 contract, and the flowchart below illustrates how to select when an
- 4 agreement is needed and what type of agreement is needed.
- 5 • Protection agreements stipulating reimbursement for actual fire
- 6 suppression costs should be utilized rather than protection agreements
- 7 stipulating upfront payment whenever possible.
- 8 • Payments are not appropriate if the refuge lies within the jurisdiction of
- 9 a local fire department that is required by law to respond to all fires
- 10 within their jurisdiction.
- 11 • These agreements must be reviewed by the RFMC, warranted
- 12 contracting officer and Regional Solicitor as appropriate prior to
- 13 approval.

14 Management response to wildland fire must be outlined in the unit’s Fire  
 15 Management Plan, agreements, Annual Operating Plans, and local  
 16 Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs).

**17 Suppression Alternatives Flow Chart**

