

**Forest Service Handbook  
National Headquarters - Washington Office  
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 1309.19 – Casualty Assistance Handbook  
Contents**

**Amendment:** 1309.19-2019-1

**Effective date:** August 13, 2019

**Duration:** This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

**Approved by:** Antoine L. Dixon, Chief Financial Officer

**Date approved:** July 19, 2019

**Responsible Staff:**

**Last Change:** 1309.19-2017-1 to chapter 60

**Superseded Document(s):** 1309.19\_contents, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_zero code, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_10, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_20, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_30, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_40, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_50, Amendment 1309.19-2013-1, October 23, 2013; 1309.19\_60, Amendment 1309.19-2017-1, September 13, 2017

**Digest:** Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

**1309.19:** This amendment changes the handbook title from “Forest Service Death and Serious Injury Handbook” to “Casualty Assistance Handbook.”

**01:** Incorporates and sets forth the policies, procedures, and responsibilities for the display and use of the flag of the United States of America; the flag of the Secretary of Agriculture; and the flag of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**04:** Updates responsibilities of the Chief of the Forest Service, Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters, Station and Area Directors, and Unit Line Officers.

**05:** Establishes definitions for “Dignified Transfer,” “Employee,” “Family Member,” and “Hazardous Work.”

**06:** Incorporates policy references related to death and serious injury management into: FSH 6109.12, chapter 30, Injury/Illness Compensation; FSM 5710, Aviation Management;

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FSM 5350, Procedures; FSM 1650, Media Relations Program; FSH 6509.33, Chapters 300-304, Federal Travel Regulation; and FSH 6509.11k, section 48, Uniform Program.

**10:** Revises chapter in its entirety. Incorporates responsibilities for key employees' coordination activities from FSH 1309.19, chapter 20, Key Employees' Coordination Activities and sets forth direction.

**11:** Establishes code and caption for role of Unit Safety Manager and sets forth direction.

**12:** Removes direction on the "First 3 Hours Following the Initial Incident".

**12.5:** Establishes code and caption for Care Teams and sets forth direction.

**13.1-13.2:** Establishes code, caption, and direction on Investigations and an Incident Management Team.

**20:** Removes chapter 20 "Key Employees' Coordination Activities" and sets forth applicable direction into chapter 10 of this handbook.

**31.1:** Establishes direction and employee relief process for medical transportation claims that have been denied by the Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation.

**31.3:** Revises direction for family member's travel, including transportation in Government vehicles and aircrafts.

**40:** Changes chapter title from "Death in the Line of Duty Administration" to "Loss of Human Life." Revises chapter and replaces direction formerly set in FSH 1309.19, chapter 50, Death Not in the Line of Duty Administration with updated policy for determining type of death, dignified transportation of remains, and memorial ceremonies.

**50:** Removes chapter 50 "Death Not in the Line of Duty Administration" and sets forth applicable direction into chapter 40 of this handbook.

**60:** Changes chapter title from "Award Ceremonies, Monuments, and Donations" to "Ceremonies, Monuments, and Donations." Revises chapter in its entirety with updated direction, procedures and managerial responsibilities for flags at half-staff, memorial ceremonies, posthumous awards and ceremonies and the erection of memorials, interpretative sites permanent plaques, and cornerstones.

**Forest Service Handbook 1309.19 – Casualty Assistance Handbook**

**Contents**

**Amendment:** 1309.19-2019-1

**Effective date:** August 13, 2019

**Table of Contents**

**Zero Code**

**Chapter**

- 10 Employees and Response Activities**
- 30 Serious Injury and Medical Emergency Administration**
- 40 Loss of Human Life**
- 60 Ceremonies, Monuments, and Donations**