

**Forest Service Handbook
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**Forest Service Handbook 5109.18 – Wildfire Prevention Handbook
Chapter 30 – Wildfire Prevention and Wildfire Education**

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Approved by: Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Associate Deputy Chief, S&PF

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Responsible Staff:

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

5109.18: Revises entire handbooks to better align with the recently revised FSM 5100 Zero Code, and the Forest Service mission. Provides a description developing, two levels of wildfire prevention and mitigation activities. The first level is ongoing wildfire prevention and mitigation activities; the second level is special wildfire prevention and mitigation activities to target specific problems. Expands the direction on wildfire prevention responsibilities to include positions from the Director of Fire and Aviation Management to the District Rangers.

10: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention Planning” to “Wildfire Prevention Planning” and revises direction throughout the chapter on planning with emphasis on use of the wildfire and mitigation assessment and planning process.

20: Revises direction in this chapter on the Smokey Bear Program to reflect current Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) Program direction, and changes in the licensing and Smokey Bear Awards programs. Removes all Area references because the Area has been incorporated into Region 9.

20.1: Revises Smokey Bear Act, Public Law amendment number.

22.1: Changes caption from “Television and Radio” to “Broadcast & Vendor Fulfillment”. Adds direction for broadcasting and vendors to this section. Recodes caption and direction for “Television and Radio” to section 22.2.

22.2: Changes caption from “Newspapers and Magazines” to “Television and Radio, and recodes direction on Television and radio to this section. Recodes direction for “Newspapers and Magazines” to section 22.3

22.3: Changes caption from “Newspapers and Magazines” to “Print Media” and recodes and updates direction for “Print Media” to this section. Recodes caption and direction for “Outdoor Advertising” to section 22.4.

22.4: Changes caption from “Field Production of Public Service Advertisements” to “Outdoor Advertising” and recodes and updates direction for “Outdoor Advertising” to this section. Recodes caption and direction for “Field Production of Public Service Advertisements” to section 22.5.

22.5: Changes caption from “Smokey Bear Internet/World Wide Website” to “Field Production of Public Service Advertisements” and recodes and updates direction for “Field Production of Public Service Advertisements” to this section. Recodes and updates direction for “Smokey Bear Internet/World Wide Website” to section 22.6.

22.6: Establishes code and caption “Social Media Sites” and sets forth direction on Social Media sites to this section. Recodes to this section direction for “Smokey Bear Internet/World Wide Website” previously located in section 22.5.

23.32: Establishes code, caption, and adds direction for “The National Symbols Program Cache”.

25.4: aEstablishes code, caption, and direction for “Security and Disposal of Smokey Bear Costume”.

30: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention and Wildland Fire Education” to “Wildfire Prevention and Wildfire Education” and expands direction in this chapter to describe how different communications programs are developed and conducted.

40: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering” to “Wildfire Prevention Engineering” and revises direction to emphasize identification of prevention engineering needs and to list sources of assistance for technology development and applications.

50: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention Enforcement and Fire Investigation” to “Wildfire Prevention Enforcement and Fire Investigation” and revises direction to include expanded descriptions of investigations, restrictions, and closure procedures.

60: Changes the chapter title from “Coordinated Wildland Fire Prevention” to “Coordinated Wildfire Prevention” and revises direction to expand upon the interagency relationship of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), partnerships, and wildland fire prevention cooperatives in delivering effective programs.

70: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention and Fire Education Teams” to “Fire Prevention Education Teams” and revises chapter in its entirety to align with the recently revised FSM 5100 Zero Code and the Forest Service mission. Revises the chapter to introduce the concept of Fire Prevention Education Teams (FPETs). Adds new sections on team mobilization and organization. Describes the relationship between severity and the use of FPETs.

71.1: Changes caption from “Mobilization” to “Fire Prevention Education Team (FPET) Training” and adds direction for FPET training. Removes direction on “Mobilization” and revises and recodes direction to section 72.2.

72.2: Removes obsolete direction on mobilization and adds to this section direction previously set out in section 71.1.

80: Changes the chapter title from “Wildland Fire Prevention and Communications Training” to “Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation, and Communications Training” and updates direction to list essential prevention courses and related skills needed in the delivery of wildfire prevention programs and projects. Removes all Area references because the Area has been incorporated into Region 9.

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30.2 - Objective

To develop effective wildfire prevention and fire education programs and increase public understanding about the role of fire, including:

1. Reasons to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires.
2. Actions that individuals and groups can take to prevent unwanted wildfires.
3. Risks, hazards, responsibilities, actions, and best practices to minimize fire loss in the wildland/urban interface (WUI).
4. Fire's role in ecosystems.
5. Fire's use to restore the health of ecosystems and to reduce hazardous fuel loads, especially in WUI areas or other areas of high value.

30.3 - Policy

Conduct fire education programs to promote understanding of fire and ecosystem management; integrate the role of fire and ecosystem management processes and products; and create an understanding of the individual responsibilities on public lands that relate to prevention of unwanted, human-caused wildfires.

30.4 - Responsibility

All Forest Service employees have a responsibility for providing basic information about wildfire prevention to the public as appropriate (FSM 5110.4). The degree of involvement and responsibility of Forest Service employees in fire prevention, education, and mitigation programs is determined through the fire assessment process conducted for each unit (FSH 5109.18, ch. 10).

30.6 - References and Resource Materials

Resource materials and curricula for wildfire education, suitable for various grade levels, are available from numerous Forest Service units, State agencies, and other organizations.

31 - Smokey Bear Program

Direction on the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) Program in chapter 20 of this handbook lists basic fire prevention messages and rules for using the Smokey Bear image.

32 - Structured Education Programs

Develop education programs to address specific wildland fire management objectives.

32.1 - Complexity of Message

Design programs for different audiences and fire issues of different complexities that use public involvement, the fire assessment process, teaching, communications, and marketing tools.

32.2 - Sample Programs

Coordinate fire education efforts with other agencies and cooperators involved in the fire or land management of a targeted geographic area.

The following may be included in the wildfire prevention education and mitigation programs:

1. Define unwanted human-caused wildfires.
 - a. Show why unwanted fires need to be prevented.
 - b. Remind individuals of their responsibility to prevent wildfires.
 - c. Discuss how to be careful during activities that have a high potential to cause fires.
2. Explain the complex fire issues of the WUI:
 - a. Basics of fire behavior;
 - b. Suppression strategies and limitations;
 - c. Responsibilities for self-protection; and
 - d. Mitigation strategies include vegetation manipulation and hazard reduction, fire-resistant landscaping, fire-resistant construction design and materials, preparations for disaster evacuation, use of codes and ordinances, robust local fire protection authority, safe zones inside the community, and community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs).
3. Explain the role of fire in ecosystems:
 - a. Fire-adapted ecosystems and fire philosophy;
 - b. Discussion of local fire ecology and fire history.
4. Explain what needs to be done locally to manage fire and ecosystems and to protect communities and use of fire as a tool.