

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
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**Forest Service Handbook 5109.18 – Wildfire Prevention Handbook
Chapter 60 – Coordinated Wildfire Prevention**

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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: Establishes 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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60.2 - Objective

To increase the effectiveness of wildfire prevention, education, and mitigation programs through coordinated efforts with cooperators and stakeholders.

60.3 - Policy

The Forest Service must actively support and assist State forestry and other cooperators and stakeholders working to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires. The National and Regional Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) programs must lay the groundwork for expanded State and local programs, which identify specific problem areas and planned solutions (ch.10).

60.6 - Role of National Wildfire Coordinating Group

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed on March 18, 1976, by a cooperative agreement between the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all Federal and State wildland fire control agencies in the United States by coordinating wildfire prevention programs. NWCG provides a system for reaching agreement on substantive issues in fire management and implementing agreed-upon policies, standards, and procedures in the Federal and State wildland fire control agencies.

60.61 - NWCG Committees

The NWCG forms committees to carry out the functional work of the group, composed of individuals having technical expertise in their particular field and a broad representative viewpoint, both agency-wide and geographically. Committees submit reports and recommendations to NWCG for review, approval, and/or future action. Wildfire prevention, education, and communication activities in NWCG are addressed in the Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC).

61 - Coordination and Cooperation

Enhance wildfire prevention programs by developing coordination and cooperation with communities, schools, corporations, athletic teams, civic groups, small businesses, or other Federal, State, and local governmental entities. Coordinate programs and efforts and, as appropriate, enter into formal agreements (FSM 1500).

61.1 - Cooperative Agreements

(See FSM 1580, FSH 1509.18, and chapter 20, exhibit 04 of this handbook). Before formalizing an agreement with a potential cooperator, carefully consider the following factors: budget; legal requirements and guidelines; audience awareness, attitudes, needs, and appeal or attraction to the program; mutual benefits; sustainability; evaluation criteria; recognition; and timeframes.

62 - Wildfire Prevention, Education and Mitigation Cooperatives

Use organized cooperative efforts by fire agencies, business leaders, interested individuals, and service groups as an effective and efficient method of reducing unwanted human-caused wildfires, and to promote understanding of individual responsibilities to reduce risk in the wildland urban interface.