

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

**Forest Service Handbook 5109.18 – Wildfire Prevention Handbook  
Chapter 70 – Fire Prevention Education Teams**

**Amendment:** 5109.18-2019-1

**Effective date:** May 23, 2019

**Duration:** This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

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

**Date approved:** May 15, 2019

**Responsible Staff:**

**Last Change:** 5109.18-99-1

**Superseded Document(s):** Entire Handbook; 5109.18\_Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 1509.18,0 Code Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 1509.18\_0 Code, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,10 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_10, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,20 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_20, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,30 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_30, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,40 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_40, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,50 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_50, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,60 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_60, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,70 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_70, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18,80 Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 5109.18\_80, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999

**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.

Table of Contents

70.2 - Objective ..... 5

70.3 - Policy ..... 5

71 - Application ..... 5

71.1 - Fire Prevention Education Team (FPET) Training ..... 5

71.2 - Resource Utilization ..... 5

72 - Organization ..... 6

72.1 - Teams ..... 6

72.2 - Mobilization..... 6

## **70.2 - Objective**

To reduce resource losses and suppression costs during extreme wildfire conditions or periods of high wildfire occurrence through the use of special interagency fire prevention education teams (FPETs).

## **70.3 - Policy**

Mobilize interagency fire prevention education teams prior to and during severe wildfire situations to assist local areas and local agency units in initiating appropriate actions to prevent human-caused wildfires. Use severity dollars in support of fire prevention education teams as appropriate to accomplish needed pre-suppression activities (FSM 5192.21).

## **71 - Application**

When severe wildland fire situations occur, frequently a unit's wildfire prevention personnel become engaged in suppression responses and do not have time to conduct the wildfire prevention activities that are needed to an even greater degree at such times. When fire weather conditions are predicted to be severe, mobilize trained interagency personnel through normal dispatch channels to assist in wildfire prevention and education. Order fire prevention education resources based upon the skills needed to mitigate anticipated problems.

### **71.1 - Fire Prevention Education Team (FPET) Training**

The following National training courses offered by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) are available to employees of all agencies:

1. P-310 - Fire Prevention Education Team Member.
2. P-410 - Fire Prevention Education Team Leader.

Other courses recommended for FPETs are identified in (ch. 80 of this handbook).

### **71.2 - Resource Utilization**

1. FPETs may be made available to support any geographic area with pre-suppression wildfire prevention activities (FSM 5192.21).
2. The teams may assist local and Regional fire managers in wildfire prevention education with the public, special groups, State and local agencies, and elected officials.

3. An FPET provides staff support to:
  - a. Facilitate public awareness of wildfire danger conditions.
  - b. Educate audiences on fire-safe practices and protection measures.
  - c. Coordinate interagency restrictions and closures.
  - d. Explain fire activities, such as prescribed burning or backfiring operations.
  - e. Develop wildfire assessments and plans (ch. 10).
  - f. Provide wildfire prevention training.
  - g. Support communications needs of incident management teams.
  - h. Assist with interagency communications coordination.

## **72 - Organization**

Core members of an FPET include a Team Leader, an Information Officer, and a Team Member with an option for a trainee. Dependent on the mission, additional team members may be added for public affairs, finance/administration, law enforcement, graphics, or logistics.

### **72.1 - Teams**

Team Leaders maintain a list of wildfire prevention education experts and, after consultation with the unit in charge, mobilize the necessary personnel to meet assignment objectives. The teams may work under the authority of a Regional interagency group, an individual unit, or an incident command organization.

### **72.2 - Mobilization**

Mobilization of a FPET may occur before or during a severe or unusual event or circumstance. The following may trigger mobilization: Severe burning conditions; unusually high wildfire occurrence; commitment of a majority of resources; and above-normal preparedness levels. Mobilization of teams must follow the direction in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.