

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

**Forest Service Handbook 5109.18 – Wildfire Prevention Handbook
Chapter 80 – Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation and Communications Training**

Amendment: 5109.18-2019-1

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

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Responsible Staff:

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Superseded Document(s): Entire Handbook; 5109.18_Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999; 1509.18,0 Code Contents, Amendment 5109.18-99-1, June 10, 1999;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: aEstablishes code, caption, and direction for “Security and Disposal of Smokey Bear Costume”.

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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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80.2 - Objective

To maintain a cadre of trained employees in wildfire prevention, community mitigation, and fire communications.

80.4 - Responsibility

1. Line Officers are responsible for assessing wildfire prevention and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) community mitigation training needs and providing training opportunities.
2. Regional Foresters are responsible for maintaining a cadre of trained employees available for assignment in wildfire prevention and fire communications.
3. All Forest Service employees, as appropriate for their positions and degree of involvement with wildfire prevention, community mitigation, and communications, are responsible for preventing wildfires, sharing the WUI mitigation message, and for helping the public prevent wildfires.

81 - Training Standards

Further direction and information on wildland fire training courses and standards can be found in the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide (FSFAQG) at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/publications>

81.1 - All Employees

All Forest Service employees are encouraged to complete an introductory wildfire prevention course, such as P-101, Fire Prevention Education 1, or a local equivalent. Introductory courses provide fundamental insight into wildfire problems and the responsibility that each employee, regardless of functional area, has in preventing, and helping the public to prevent and prepare for wildfires. Such introductory wildfire prevention courses cover the three "E's" of fire prevention (education, engineering, and enforcement) and "A" (administration); promote an understanding of fire risk, hazard, and value; and provide training in specific wildfire prevention and preparedness activities.

81.2 - Employees with Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation, and Communications Responsibility

1. Wildfire prevention, education, and communication specialists and other employees with wildfire prevention responsibilities are encouraged to acquire knowledge and skill in the following courses at the specified levels. Further direction and information on internal training is found in the FSFAQG:
 - a. Fire prevention, education and communication specialists (entry level): I-200, "Basic Incident Command System"; IS701A, "NIMS Multiagency Coordination (MAC)

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System"; RX-310, "Introduction to Fire Effects"; P-101, "Fire Prevention Education 1", and P-110 NFPA course, "Home Ignition Zone Workshop."

b. Fire prevention, education, and communication specialists (working level): P-301, "Fire Prevention Education 2"; FI-210, "Wildland fire Origin and Cause Determination."

c. Fire prevention, education, and communication specialists (expert level): P-301, "Fire Prevention Education 2"; FI-210 "Wildland fire Origin and Cause Determination"; and I-403, "Information Officer."

2. The following are additional knowledge areas and/or skills that may be beneficial for employees with fire prevention, education, mitigation and communication duties:

a. Computers - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and use of the Internet.

b. Planning - fire assessment processes, workload analyses, the National Fire Management Analysis System, and budget process.

c. Smokey Bear - history, role, proper use.

d. Fire and ecosystem management.

e. Fire Protection - property owner and community preparedness measures, landscaping, construction, insurance issues, urban planning processes, value and need for prescribed fire and other hazardous fuels treatments.

f. Communications and marketing techniques.

g. Engineering - inspection procedures, protocol and enforcement techniques, prevention technology, fuel manipulation techniques.

h. Enforcement - Safety, authority, Federal and State laws and regulations, cause and origin determination and report preparation, restriction, closure implementation, tort claims, and criminal and civil remedies related to fire.

i. Cooperators - their mission, interactions, agreements, fire laws and policies, and enforcement authorities and jurisdiction.

j. Knowledge of local publics, audiences, and stakeholders - affiliations, awareness, values, natural resource interests, and attitudes.

k. Second language.

81.3 - Fire Duty Employees

1. Employees with wildfire prevention duties must have a thorough understanding of mitigation, pre-suppression, suppression, and prescribed fire activities. Wildland fire prevention courses and hazard mitigation courses are all recommended for wildfire prevention personnel.
2. Employees involved in inspections and/or law enforcement duties must have a thorough understanding of enforcement authorities and procedures. Training in employee safety training and Job Hazard Analyses should address all wildfire prevention functions. Further direction and information on internal training is found in FSFAQG.

82 - Wildfire Prevention Training Courses

Regions and local units may develop training courses to increase the skill level of personnel who perform wildfire prevention, mitigation, or fire communications duties, or these employees may take advantage of courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences offered through colleges, universities, and other agencies and organizations.

82.1 - National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

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

1. P-101 – Fire Prevention Education 1.
2. FI-210 – Wildfire Origin and Cause Determination.
3. P-301 – Fire Prevention Education 2.
4. P-310 – Fire Prevention Education Team Member.
5. P-410 – Fire Prevention Education Team Leader.
6. S-203 – Introduction to Incident Information.
7. S- 403 – Information Officer.

82.2 - Fire Investigation Training

The National Wildfire Investigation Training Program is offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). Fire investigation courses are:

1. FI – 110 Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders.

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2. FI – 210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination.
3. FI – 310 Wildland Fire Investigation: Case Development.