



**File Code:** 6180-2

**Date:** March 14, 2008

**Subject:** Reimbursement for Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) Expanded to Include Temporary Fire Line Managers

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy Chiefs

I have good news. I know potential liability has been a significant concern for many wildland firefighters. Important recent legislation extends protection for our firefighters, beginning in the upcoming fire season. I have the pleasure of relaying the details.

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed Public Law 110-161, the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2008. Section 429 expands coverage for reimbursement of professional liability insurance to our “temporary fire line managers.”

To qualify, these “temporary fire line managers” must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Provide temporary supervision or management of personnel engaged in wildland or managed fire activities,
2. Provide analysis or information that affects a supervisor’s or manager’s decision about a wildland or managed fire, or
3. Direct the deployment of equipment for a wildland or managed fire.

We have determined that the Fire positions listed in Enclosure A as part of the Incident Command System meet the definition of “temporary fire line managers.” Employees holding these temporary fire positions will now be eligible to be reimbursed for up to one-half of the cost incurred for professional liability insurance including any administrative processing cost charged by the insurance company.

Due to the above legislative change and the migration of Human Capital Management operations work to the Albuquerque Service Center, we are taking the opportunity to update and clarify the process that employees must follow in order to receive reimbursement. Please refer to Enclosure B for the specific procedures and forms that must be completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Esposito ([debbieesposito@fs.fed.us](mailto:debbieesposito@fs.fed.us)) at (703) 605-0844 or Kim MacLaurin ([kmaclaurin@fs.fed.us](mailto:kmaclaurin@fs.fed.us)) or (505) 563-9304.

*/s/ Jim Hubbard (for):*  
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Enclosures

