



Office of the Chief

Washington Office

Office of Safety
and Occupational Health

Forest Service Safety and Health Program



FOREST SERVICE SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Excellence in Safety Management

Our number one job at the Forest Service is to protect our most valuable resource—our employees. Unless we do that, we cannot be a world-class leader in natural resource management. In addition, I share a deep commitment with the National Leadership Team to protect every Forest Service partner and the public we serve. Therefore, I expect every line officer, manager, supervisor, and employee to manage risk exposure. That means identifying and abating hazards, refusing to accept unnecessary risk, and making risk-related decisions at the appropriate level.

Managing risk does not mean avoiding risk at all times. The nature of our business requires that we, at times, place ourselves and our employees in situations involving risk. For example, wildland firefighting, tree-felling operations, and law enforcement all entail a measure of risk. We must acknowledge that risk and safely manage it.

However, managing risk does not give us license to violate safety policies and procedures. To the contrary, we must mitigate risk by incorporating safe operating procedures into each of our daily tasks. How well we do so will determine how safe we are able to keep ourselves and our people and how well we are able to fulfill our mission of caring for the land and serving people.

In approaching and designing our projects and activities and in developing supporting policies and procedures, I expect every one of us, first and foremost, to be aware of any associated hazards and to mitigate them. Our goal is zero accidents. Toward that end, every one of us has an obligation to ourselves, our families, our coworkers, and the public to report unsafe or unhealthy conditions to our immediate supervisor for corrective action. Remember, no job is so important that we cannot take the time to work safely.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth

DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief