



**Risk Management Assistance (RMA) and Agency Administrator Certification Talking Points:
February 2020**

- Changes in the biophysical environment are contributing to longer fire seasons and reduced effectiveness of traditional wildland fire suppression responses. This compounded with an increased expansion of the wildland-urban interface and condition of the fuels has led to more complex fire management decisions. The Agency must adapt to these changes while meeting the call to increase our accountability around decisions, process and investments.
- Fiscal Year 2020 will be a transitional year for integrating Risk Management Assistance into our existing organization and continuing to expand agency administrator competencies in risk informed decision making through training and education programs while innovating new products to support fire response and management with partners. These competencies are in alignment with the National Cohesive Strategy, “to safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed, use fire where allowable and manage our natural resources and as a nation live with wildland fire”.
- The heart of Risk Management Assistance is improving the decisions our fire managers and agency leaders make on fires, together with our partners – to improve fire fighter and public safety and reduce costs. Risk Management Assistance facilitates and enhances line officers’ skills in decision quality and provide access to the latest decision support system tools and analytics. Risk Management Assistance will continue to use the trade-off analysis with support of spatial mapping to provide intelligence for line officers.
- In 2020, we will continue to provide Risk Management Assistance in a primarily virtual manner and provide Risk Management Assistance oversight through Washington Office Fire and Aviation Risk and Learning with accountability to the National Line Officer Team and a diverse cross-discipline steering committee. This is intended to support the transformation we are making culturally to incorporate risk concepts in our decision making.
- Risk Management Assistance is anticipating much of the support can be done remotely, but the ability to provide a support team will be available if the situation warrants it. On-site support will be offered by an experienced line officer and supported by fire operations and risk management specialists. Fire analysts will support virtually in most cases.
- The Forest Service recognizes that strong partnerships with Agency cooperators and other firefighting agencies and organizations is critical to collective success and plans to expand these discussions with partners. Risk Management Assistance aspires to facilitate and accelerate learning for the changes needed in the wildland fire system.

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