



United States Department of the Interior

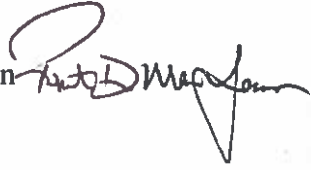
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2400

APR 20 2018

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Attention: Park Superintendents

From: Acting Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection 

Subject: Leader's Intent: 2018 Wildland Fire Season

The 2018 wildland fire season is well under way. This is evidenced by numerous fires in our south Florida parks, fire severity conditions in the southern tier of the Intermountain Region, and a 258-acre wildfire at Channel Islands in March. We must all realize this is just the beginning and prepare accordingly. My intent is we prepare for the season ahead in order to be ready to manage fire safely within the parameters of the National Park Service's (NPS) mission while remaining mindful of our partners' missions and expectations.

To that end, I ask each of you to review the Agency Administrator Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations found in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, 2018](#). These begin in chapter 3 on page 74. I would like to highlight item number 21, which identifies a new qualification requirement for park superintendents, their designated acting superintendents, and supervisors of fire management officers. This Agency Administrator (AADM) qualification strengthens our previous training requirements and must be attained within two years of appointment to the positions listed above. Work with your fire management staff to ensure you meet this requirement or to identify the steps required to meet it within the identified timeframe.

The NPS and our partners have faced challenging fire seasons in recent years. Wildland fire plays a vital role in many of our ecosystems, but it also brings the potential for loss of life and structures. We must keep firefighter and public safety as our highest priority. This begins with an emphasis on planning, communication, and strategic risk management before the fire arrives. As leaders, we must be accessible to our fire leadership, whether the leadership comes from park employees or with an Incident Management Team. We have to set the standard of operational risk management, ensuring our responders take action at a level commensurate with their qualifications and capabilities, while using appropriate equipment.

The NPS has adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) *International Urban-Wildland Interface Code (2006)*. Information on this code can be found in [NPS Reference Manual 18, Wildland Fire](#), chapter 7, page 9. Preseason, we can strengthen our preparedness for fire events by creating written Standard Operating Procedures that identify acceptable mitigation actions around our infrastructure and assigning the work to park divisions. During wildfire incidents,

you should make use of on-site Resource Advisors whenever possible for assessing defensible space needs for our cultural and natural resource values and structure protection efforts.

The items identified above will be accomplished successfully with mutual respect and trust. We are responsible for setting the proper tone of inclusivity, trust, and open communication. Embracing the [wildland fire leadership values of duty, respect, and integrity](#), along with their associated principles, will help us in this endeavor.

Cc: Associate Regional Directors with Oversight of Wildland Fire Management
Division Chief, Fire and Aviation Management
Branch Chief, Wildland Fire
NPS Memorandums