

**File Code:** 5100; 1410**Date:** JUL 17 2017**Route To:****Subject:** 2017 Fire Response Learning Review**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

It is our intent, as an Agency, to improve the wildland fire system to one that more reliably protects responders and the public, sustains communities, and conserves the land. As part of this effort, we are pleased to share the enclosed *2017 Fire Response Learning Review* objectives and direction.

We learned a lot through last year's Life First engagement and Learning Inquiries, and we are committed to both building on those lessons—and to continue joint learning in the future. Objectives for this year are to improve our decision making capabilities by promoting the following:

- Improved implementation of existing guidelines and protocols, especially related to managing exposure;
- Improved data gathering, monitoring and understanding of risk protocol implementation and outcomes of its use; and
- Increased capacity for organizational learning to further our understanding and inform necessary changes in the future.

To support these objectives, as well as our Agency's commitment to learning, enhanced data will be collected to develop a comprehensive baseline of daily suppression resource actions that will help us expand our understanding of the wildland fire system. In addition, the Risk Management Protocol, as described in the Red Book, will be evaluated for effectiveness. Documenting Risk Management Protocol use will help us to better understand how it influences outcomes.

Agency direction includes the four types of Learning Reviews described below (updated for 2017). These will be focused on Type 1 and 2 incidents, although the intent is not to exclude any opportunity for learning.

Data Collection & Key Performance Indicators: Our intention is to establish a small set of simple data points that will initially be collected remotely. The focus of these learning reviews is to establish baselines within the wildland fire system to better understand patterns of suppression resource use and responder exposure. These baselines form the basis for development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are consistent with our 2016 Life First outcomes of managing exposure, specifically related to communications, driving, mop up and aviation.



Risk Management Assistance: Risk Management Assistance Teams (RMATs) are testing the concept of adding capacity and alignment to decision making. RMAT has begun developing a website where you can learn more: <https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/RMAT.html>. This website will be more fully developed as the season progresses. These teams will provide an additional level of decision support with the Agency Administrator and incident managers using the Red Book's Risk Management Protocol and additional analytics. These teams will be engaged as soon as an event is identified as having a high potential to result in substantial levels of firefighter exposure and commitment of Agency resources. RMATs will only be sent to a subset of these incidents, but centrally located enhanced decision support will be available to all incidents that meet the criteria.

Reviews described in the Red Book: The Washington Office Fire & Aviation Management (FAM) staff will identify incidents for additional assessment, review, and sharing based on the scale of exposure and relative risk posed by the incident. This process will help inform our collective learning for improving the wildland fire system, and identify any incidents or groups of incidents for further inquiry. This level will contain any review the Washington Office FAM leadership, or the Regional leadership, feels is necessary to help organizational learning. It may be an informal inquiry, or a review as outlined in the Red Book—which could include After Action Reviews, Large Fire Cost Reviews, and Individual Fire Reviews, to name a few.

Wildland Fire System Learning/Risk Management Summit: This level is intended to deepen our understanding of the wildland fire system and the impacts that the system has on downstream decision making and continued learning around managing risk. A task group will be formed to develop an approach to gather information relative to how Life Work engagements are affecting strategy, tactics and exposure from 2017. This task group will also design the Summit. The Summit will host an organizational learning discussion in the fall. This national meeting will include Agency administrators, research and fire managers, to explore findings from the 2017 process, and to recommend future direction to our learning efforts.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our Life First and Life Work discussions and outcomes. Your direct involvement is critical to our success. This year's focus areas and learning reviews will help us continue to build the environment that fosters continual learning and improvement to the wildland fire system.

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Enclosure