



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington Office

14<sup>th</sup> & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6130/5100  
Route To: (5100), (6130)

Date: June 15, 2004

Subject: Implementation of the Interagency Fire Program Management Standard

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and WO Staff

I am pleased to announce the culmination of a lengthy effort between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to establish uniform fire management qualification standards to improve firefighter safety and increase professionalism in fire management programs.

The qualification standards are generally referred to as the IFPM Standard. Among the components of the IFPM Standard is the Office of Personnel Management-approved Supplemental Qualification Standard for GS-0401 Fire Management Specialist positions which was issued in September of 2002. Please see the attached White Paper for additional information about the IFPM Standard.

This effort began several years ago as a result of wildland fire incident reviews. The death of 14 wildland firefighters on Storm King Mountain in 1994 was a turning point. These studies highlighted the fact that we needed more stringent, uniform qualification standards for employees in certain fire management positions to assure firefighter safety.

We have established **October 1, 2004**, as the date that we will officially begin implementing the IFPM Standard. Prior to October 1, the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board (NFAEB) will charter a standing committee composed of fire officials and human resources specialists to oversee the implementation process. The initial task of this committee will be to develop and distribute an overall implementation plan. Full implementation of that plan will require the cooperation of fire program managers, supervisors, affected employees, and human resources specialists at all levels in both the Forest Service and the Department of Interior Bureaus. With that type of proactive transition effort, we expect no adverse impact on any affected employees. The standing committee will also establish an effective communications plan, including a dedicated web site, so that everyone can stay abreast of our implementation progress.

In the interim and thereafter, please contact your Servicing Human Resources Office who can seek direction from the Washington Office until such time as direction is finalized. Region and Station Employment Officers may direct their questions to Joy Thomas at 703-605-0861 or email at [jrthomas@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrthomas@fs.fed.us).

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth  
DALE N. BOSWORTH  
Chief



cc: Joel Holtrop, John Lopez, Joy R Thomas, Billy Terry