

Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement Transition

Date: January 28, 2026

Subject: Transition Plan for Implementation of DOI and USFS Aligned Position Qualifications in the *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*.

Purpose: This plan communicates the implementation of aligned training and position qualifications required by Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Order (SO) 3443 and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Secretary's Memorandum (SM) 1078-017, Section a. These directives state: *"Improve interagency interoperability through qualification and training standardization, and skills crosswalks with the Department of Homeland Security, Tribes, States, and local governments within 180 days."*

Action: Effective December 18, 2025, the following actions were approved:

- The 2025 *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*, including annual updates, will remain the qualification standards for 2026:
 - DOI responders transitioning to the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) will follow previous bureau (i.e., BLM, NPS, FWS, BIA) qualification standards in the 2026 *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*.
 - USFS responders will follow agency qualification standards in the 2026 *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*.
- USWFS and USFS aligned qualification standards will be effective January 2027. A draft version of the 2027 qualifications guide will be available Spring 2026.
- Effective January 2027, historical recognition will apply to qualified responders. Those that are qualified will remain qualified. The new standards will apply to all responders seeking to gain qualification(s) after the publication date.
- Agencies endorsing positions in the *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*, and not under SO/SM directives, will review the aligned standards and determine position endorsements before the January 2027 effective date.

Background and Coordination: To meet SO/SM requirements, a workgroup composed of DOI and USFS national training officers, training specialists, and the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) Business Steward, collaborated with DOI and USFS national-level subject matter experts to align qualification standards in the *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement*. Alignment between DOI and USFS endorsed positions was achieved for most positions, resulting in changes to training, experience, and fitness requirements, which will be enforced in January 2027. Some positions will be archived due to low resource ordering or low qualified responder counts.

To prepare responders, training coordinators, and certifying officials for qualification standard changes, a transition period is approved to follow the qualification standards in the 2026 *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement* and implement DOI and USFS aligned standards in January 2027.