



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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April 06, 2020

RE: 2017 Interagency Firefighting Crew Agreement (IFCA) Guidance for:

- 2020 Waiver of Work Capacity Fitness (WCFT) and Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) for Returning Firefighters
- 2020 Company Manifest Deadline Adjustment

Dear Contractor:

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has adopted the Fire Management Board's Memo of March 21, 2020, (copy attached) as operational guidance for 2020 in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. This guidance hereby applies to IFCA contracted resources through December 31, 2020.

Additionally, the July 01 deadline for Contractor company manifests (IFCA B 4.0) has been pushed out to July 15, 2020, to allow for additional resource preparedness. The deadline may be further adjusted in the future based on ongoing COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. This adjustment is effective through December 31, 2020.

### Summary

IFCA Crew Member and Strike Team Leader qualifications require the completion of the Basic Firefighter Training, RT-130 and WCFT. Based on current circumstances related to COVID-19, our goal is to reduce impact and exposure to the firefighting industry while maintaining our ability to respond to incidents and carry out mission critical wildland fire activities.

Contractors are liable for their employees and must make decisions based on risk regarding the alternative training options as summarized below. For contractors that apply the optional provisions for returning firefighters, the attached **Waiver Form** shall be completed and included in each applicable firefighter's training and experience file.

**REQUIRED FOR Newly Hired Firefighters** that did not have IQC cards issued in 2019:

WCFT, Basic Firefighter Training (S-130, S-190, L-180, IS-700, ICS-100), and Fire Shelter Training.

- Instructors are strongly encouraged to deliver training utilizing virtual technology as an interim measure.
- Medical clearances should be obtained through the employer's standard onboarding process.
- Contractors are encouraged to use weight appropriate bladder bags or individual issued fire line packs versus sharing or reuse of WCFT vests.
- Fire Shelter training should be implemented using a practice fire shelter as a one-person, one time use.

**OPTIONS FOR Returning Firefighters** that were issued IQC cards or Govt. issued Red Cards in 2019:

Contractors are encouraged to provide returning firefighters with all required training as set forth in IFCA B 3.0., as possible. These alternative provisions to WCFT and RT-130 annual standards are adopted to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 for 2020:

WCFTs are not required for 2020. Contractors shall ensure measures are being implemented to mitigate health risks if choosing this alternative. Documentation of specific mitigation measures shall be included in the firefighter's training and experience file.

Firefighters who have not completed RT-130 as of March 23, 2020, will continue to be RT-130 certified through December 31, 2020. Please refer to the actions recommended in lieu of formal training as listed on page 2 of the attached FMB letter.

Please review and ensure your understanding of these guidance items. All other terms and conditions of the original Agreement (including Amendments 1-6) are still in full force and effect.

If you have any questions, please contact the PCSU.

Regards,

*Bea Noyes*

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Att(2): copy of FMB March 21, 2020, Letter  
ODF Waiver Form Template