

# WILDLAND FIRE COVID-19 SCREENING

## Interim Standard Operating Procedures

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### Instructions

The following screening guidance is recommended for adoption and implementation at duty stations and for all incident management activities across the interagency wildland fire community, as frequently and extensively as possible. The screening is meant to identify individuals that may have COVID-19. As a part of this screening, each individual should consider their typical level of fatigue while performing arduous work on a wildland fire assignment so as not to confuse typical arduous work symptoms with those of COVID-19. Supervisors and incident managers should plan and resource accordingly to support the following SOP:

### Pre-Mobilization

Supervisors should ensure personnel have no present symptoms of illness using the *Wildland Fire COVID-19 Screening Tool* prior to consideration of incident assignments. In addition to this initial screen, Supervisors should inform personnel going on assignments of ongoing routine daily screening on all incidents during COVID-19.

### Arrival/Entry to Location

All resources accessing any entry point location will wash their hands. If soap and water are not available hand sanitizer may be used. Each resource will proceed to receive verbal screening using the *Wildland Fire COVID-19 Screening Tool* and if possible, have their temperature assessed using a touchless thermometer. To maintain at least six feet of distance, physical barriers/dividers or rope and stanchion systems should be used between screeners and workers being screened. Supervisors and incident managers should determine the number of personnel required to support the screening process and consider scheduling and/or staggering resource arrival times to minimize crowding at arrival/entry locations.

### Daily Screening

All resources should be encouraged to report any emerging symptoms to their supervisor (Crew Boss, Unit Leader, Module Leader, Duty Officer, Division Supervisor, Floor Supervisor, etc.). In addition, supervisors should assess subordinates' health daily using the *Wildland Fire COVID-19 Screening Tool* to ensure no emerging symptoms. It is recommended the screening questions are asked of all personnel routinely throughout the day.

### Positive Screenings

Persons with indications of illness prior to mobilization should be excluded from incident assignments until they meet the return to work criteria as described by CDC (10 days after the start of symptoms and at least 3 days after the last fever not requiring fever reducing medications, and symptoms are improving).

Persons found meeting sick criteria or found to be with fever on arrival at an incident entry location should not be allowed entrance and, as above, should be excluded from incident assignments until they meet the return to work criteria as described by CDC. When accessible, also use the [CDC Self-Checker](#) to help make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care. Next steps should be coordinated with unit leadership, the medical unit and/or local health authority. Prior to release and return to home, individuals with signs or symptoms of illness posing a risk of COVID-19 transmission should be isolated in a separate location. This may require separate, dedicated and staffed areas/facilities to ensure that individuals with potential COVID-19 infection do not come in contact with other fire personnel.

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### Confidentiality of Medical Information:

Any medical information gathered is subject to ADA confidentiality requirements<sup>23</sup>

### Tools and Supplies

- Verbal Screening - use the *Wildland fire COVID-19 Screening Tool*
- Temperature Checks - use only touch-less infrared thermometer if available.
  - Incident management personnel involved with screening should consider purchasing touchless thermometers prior to assignment. Incident emergency medical personnel are strongly encouraged to bring their personal touchless thermometers if available.
- Isolation - use separate facility, yurt or personal tent.
- Dedicated Wash Stations - Consider the number of dedicated wash stations and/or portable restrooms needed to maximally support each bullet above.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Screeners:
  - If screeners need to be within six feet of workers, provide them with appropriate PPE based on the repeated close contact the screeners have with other workers.
  - Such PPE may include gloves, a gown, a face shield, and, at a minimum, a face mask.
  - N95 filtering facepiece respirators (or more protective) may be appropriate for workers performing screening duties and necessary for workers managing a sick employee in the work environment (see below) if that employee has signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If respirators are needed, they must be used in the context of a comprehensive respiratory protection program that includes medical exams, fit testing, and training in accordance with OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)).
  - These items can be found in: NFES 1660 – *Individual Infectious Barrier Kit* or NFES 1675 – *Multi-Person Infectious Disease Barrier Kit*
  - Note: Appropriate techniques for using personal protective equipment including donning and doffing can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

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<sup>2</sup> Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act  
[https://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic\\_flu.html](https://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic_flu.html)

<sup>3</sup> 29 CFR § 1630.14 - Medical examinations and inquiries specifically permitted.  
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/29/1630.14>

# WILDLAND FIRE COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL

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**Today or in the past 24 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms<sup>4</sup>?**

| Symptom   |
|---|
| Cough more than expected?   |
| Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?                        |
| Fever?  |
| Chills?   |
| Muscle pain outside your normal for firefighting?                   |
| Sore throat?  |
| New loss of taste or smell?   |
| <i>* Take temperature with no-touch thermometer, if available *</i> |

## Instructions for Screening

| Item   | What to Do  |
|--|---|
| If resource has a cough that is more than expected, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or any other symptoms listed.   | DO NOT MOBILIZE   |
| At Entries:<br>Consider adequate number of personnel needed for screening. Although medical personnel are ideal, screeners do not have to be medically trained.<br>If resource has cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or any other listed symptoms including fever (over 100.4) at entry. | DO NOT ANNOUNCE<br>Ask individual to step aside and follow the steps below. |

### Steps to follow

|  |
|--|
| Escort symptomatic individual to isolation area.   |
| Isolation support personnel should begin documentation.  |
| Have symptomatic individual contact Supervisor for further direction.  |
| Notify public health officials.  |
| Have individual transported as appropriate.  |
| Protect and secure any collected Personal Identifiable Information (PII) or Personal Health Information (PHI). |

<sup>4</sup>Symptoms of Coronavirus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>