



Fire Defense Board Preparedness

Fire Camps & COVID-19

May 29, 2020

What specialized PPE should be brought to a mobilization?

OSFM is working to provide a cache of the following items but ask that each task force/strike team consider bringing them as well to ensure availability.

- 30 N-95 masks
 - Note: these will be worn only if there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure
- 50 surgical masks or cloth face coverings
- 2 containers disinfectant wipes
- 1 container hand sanitizer
- 1 container liquid hand soap
- 1 roll paper towels
- 1 no-contact thermometer

It is standard for all resources to arrive with 72 hours' worth of food and water, and that will be especially important this year. The likelihood that resources will have to rely on the food/water they bring is higher than in years past.

What should we expect to look different at an OSFM mobilization this year?

- All personnel should take their temperatures and conduct health screenings before mobilizing and then daily, prior to start of shift.
- It is likely that the traditional large fire camp model will not be used, and instead we will see multiple remote camps to facilitate physical distancing.
- Food service will be different. Expect boxed and pre-packaged meals rather than traditional kitchens and hot food lines. Communal coffee and other self-serve drinks may not be available.
- There will an increased expectation that laundry service and showers be used regularly.
- Operational briefings may take place via radio or streaming video. In-person briefings should only be attended by TFLs.
- In-person interactions with the IMT will be minimized. Resources will need to work closely with their direct supervisors. There will be increased expectations on Task Force Leaders and Division Supervisors to lead and communicate with their personnel.
- When interacting with those outside your "module as one," face coverings should be worn, and physical distancing should be maintained.

What is a “module as one?”

When physical distancing is not possible (e.g. individuals working together on a task force or individuals confined to the same physical space), the group will interact with each other as they would if living under one roof in a traditional family unit. The entire group will distance themselves whenever possible from others outside their module. In the case of OFMAS resources, a module may consist of a division or group or it may be as small as a task force. This will be dependent upon the incident.

Where can I find more information?

OSFM’s work expands upon the Northwest IMT Recommended Best Management Practices document, available online:

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/Northwest%20Incident%20Management%20Teams%20Recommended%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20\(COVID-19%20Pandemic\).pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/Northwest%20Incident%20Management%20Teams%20Recommended%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20(COVID-19%20Pandemic).pdf)