



Forest  
Service

Boise  
National  
Forest

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**File Code:** 5130

**Date:** March 3, 2009

**Route To:**

**Subject:** FY 2009 Annual Fire Refresher & Work Capacity Tests

**To:** All Boise National Forest Employees

I would like to take the time to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to making Fire Season 2008 safe and successful. Participation in Fire Season 2009 is encouraged; however, you must complete the appropriate Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training and Work Capacity Test (WCT) if required.

In accordance with manual direction under FSM 5135.5, "All personnel who may receive a wildfire fireline assignment shall complete fireline safety refresher training annually (5135.04b and 5109.17, Ch. 20 and 30). FSH 5109.17, Chapter 20, displays positions where the fireline safety refresher training is required." The annual refresher content must include: Avoiding Entrapments, Current Issues, Fire Shelter and Other Hazard and Safety Issues.

In 2009, all employees who hold a position that requires the Arduous WCT must be cleared by the Medical Standards process prior to taking the Arduous WCT. Those required to take the Light and Moderate WCT will follow the same Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) process as before. You are responsible for your physical condition and your health. Before training for or taking the WCT, you must either be cleared by Medical Standards (Arduous only) or have been approved through the HSQ process (Light and Moderate). Please allow as much time as possible to complete this process. Employees shall not take the WCT unless they have an incident qualification that requires it, and only at the fitness level (Arduous, Moderate, or Light) required by that position as identified in the FSH 5109.17. Please contact the WCT test coordinator listed on the schedule to reserve a space. More information on the WCT and electronic forms are located at the following link:

*[http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct\\_index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/wct_index.html)*

For those who hold an **Arduous** qualification, and have not begun the Medical Standards process, please contact your district AFMO, or the Forest Training Officer. If you have begun the Medical Standards process, you do not need to submit any HSQ forms.

For **Moderate** and **Light** qualifications, please send your HSQ and Informed Consent forms to the following HSQ Coordinator based on your home unit:

- Michelle Niehoff: 392-3711 Mountain Home, Idaho City, ADs
- Linda Wood: 462-3241 Cascade, Emmett, Lowman, SO/BDC/LPN/Warehouse



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Due to the large temporary workforce needing the Work Capacity Test and fireline refresher in late spring and early summer, Permanent Full Time and Permanent Seasonal Employees are strongly encouraged to attend the earlier sessions. A list of those cleared to take the Arduous test by Medical Standards will be provided to your WCT Administrator prior to the test. For Light and Moderate test takers, please bring your WCT approval letter which will be issued to you by the HSQ Coordinator **or you will not be permitted to take the test.**

The enclosed schedule lists dates and locations of the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher and WCT sessions to be presented this year. These will be the **only** sessions offered on the forest, please sign up by contacting the appropriate coordinator. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Hope Spriggs, Fire Training Officer, at 384-3376.

Supervisors of non-fire management employees are strongly encouraged to send all new employees to Basic Fire School. This is an important basic training for all employees, and during past fire seasons all employees have been asked to assist in fire suppression. More information on this training is available on the Southwest Interagency Fire Training (SWIFT) website or by contacting Hope Spriggs.

*[www.idahofireinfo.blm.gov/swift/courses.html](http://www.idahofireinfo.blm.gov/swift/courses.html)*

*/s/ Cecilia R. Seesholtz*  
CECILIA R. SEESHOLTZ  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures