

STANDARDS FOR INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW OPERATIONS



NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
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Date: February 8, 2016

To: Agency Personnel

From: Fire and Aviation Directors:
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Implementation of revised *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations*

The *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations* (SIHCO) was revised and approved on January 21, 2016 by the four federal agencies that host interagency hotshot crews. The revision was a multi-year effort coordinated and led by the National Interagency Hotshot Crew Steering Committee working with interagency operations and leadership teams.

Summary of major changes:

- Clarified that standard Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) size is 20-22, with a minimum of 18 required for mobilization.
- Increased faller standards to minimum of four (4) certified Intermediate Faller (FAL2) per crew and 50% of the crew must be certified as Basic Faller (FAL3) or higher.
- Increased radio requirement to a minimum of eight (8) programmable radios.
- Increased NWCG qualification for Squad Leader position to Crew Boss (CRWB) **AND** Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5) (see below).
- Added Task Force Leader (TFLD) to Assistant Superintendent/Captain position as an alternative to Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR). New qualification is Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR) **AND** Crew Boss (CRWB) **AND** Incident Commander Type 4 **OR** Task Force Leader (TFLD) **AND** Crew Boss (CRWB) **AND** Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4).
- Added Decertification language in Chapter 5.
- Updated the charter and membership for the National Interagency Hotshot Crew Steering Committee.

All changes listed above are effective January 21, 2016 **EXCEPT** for the Squad Leader NWCG qualifications. The Squad Leader NWCG qualification requirement of Crew Boss (CRWB) will be implemented on January 21, 2018. Until that date, IHC may continue to follow the Squad Leader NWCG qualifications of Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) and

Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5). On January 21, 2018, all Squad Leaders on all IHC will be required to meet the new standard of CRWB and ICT5.

Each agency that hosts Interagency Hotshot Crews will issue specific agency guidance with an implementation process and plan for the Squad Leader position. Reminder that the contents of the SIHCO are not be modified. Supplemental agency specific direction of a more restrictive nature may be issued separately.

Please contact any member of the National Interagency Hotshot Crew Steering Committee http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/hotshots/ihc_reps.pdf with questions.



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