

July 22, 2016

To: BIA RFMO's, BIA Training Officers, and BIA IQCS Account Managers

From: BWFM

Subject: Transition to utilization of the NWCG PTB's for Faller's 1, 2 and 3's.

Background: Recent updates to the 310-1 National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide has affected a subsequent change to the BIA Sawyer Program.

These updates were garnered by a decision from the Risk Management Committee (RMC) and the Hazard Tree Subcommittee, both of which have BIA representatives. The primary focus for this change was the acknowledgement by the committees that the current system of sawyers felling trees during the field day portions of S-212 and/or BIA FAL1 training was not commensurate with felling complex trees on the fireline and/or creating fireline.

The changes will promote consistency between response organizations and ensure personnel are mobilized for incidents with qualifications that meet the needs of requesting units.

Transition Plan

Effective Date:

This transition will be effective as of the next publication of the 310-1 National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide in January 1, 2017.

Currently Qualified:

Individuals with the position competency FAL1, FAL2 or FAL3 with a qualified status will remain with a qualified status as of the effective date.

Training:

Personnel desiring to be qualified as FAL2 or FAL3 after the effective date of January 1, 2017 will need to follow the new guidance issued in the 310-1. BIA personnel desiring to be qualified as FAL1 will need to also follow this new protocol along with the protocols established historically by the BIA Sawyer Program which include;

- Any BIA personnel who have the qualification of FAL2 or FAL3, looking to advance to FAL1, will attend a BIA sanctioned FAL1 course and must receive a certificate of completion from a BIA CRT1 before opening a FAL1 position task book (PTB.)
- Final evaluation of a BIA FAL1 will follow directives outlined in the NWCG FAL1 PTB, effective January 1, 2017.

Additional IQCS Considerations:

All historical data will be maintained in IQCS to reflect experience records as they occurred.