



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
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March 29, 2010

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, All Regions
Attention: Forestry/Fire Management

From: Acting Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management 

Subject: Payment for Emergency Medical Technicians in administration of the Work Capacity Test

Introduction

The Work Capacity Test (WCT) is administered to ensure persons assigned to fire activities are physically capable of performing their duties in wildland fire. To meet recommendations in the 2010 Blue Book, <http://www.nifc.gov/policies/blue/Ch9Safety.pdf>, and the Work Capacity Test Administrators Guide, <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/pdf03512805dpi300.pdf>, a qualified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or equivalent will be onsite to observe candidates during, and following completion of the WCT to provide medical assistance if necessary.

Purpose

This memorandum clarifies direction for EMT's, and appropriate life support equipment to be present during the administration of the WCT. Any deviation of Standard Operating Procedures shall be documented on the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA), and the Medical Response Plan. Both documents will be reviewed and signed by the Agency Administrator. All Fire Management organizations will use appropriated funding from their local unit preparedness account for emergency services personnel and equipment. Payment will be at the local unit level, and can be made by using the government charge card, or through a local contract.

Fire Management Officers and Work Capacity Test Administrators need to work with local Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal clinics, hospitals, and Emergency Medical Service providers to establish a pool of qualified EMT's, and equipment. It is encouraged that Agency and Tribal employees that meet the currency requirements for state EMT licensing be used to implement the WCT.

For questions or more information, please contact Tony Beitia, NIFC Wildland Fire Safety Specialist at 208.387.5177 or via email at tony_beitia@nifc.gov.