



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

MAR 05 2019

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
All Agency Superintendents
Attention: Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

From: Acting Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs *Daryl LaCounte*

Subject: Engine Operator (ENOP) Position and Curriculum, Lights and Sirens Training, and Licensing For Wildland Fire Engine Operation

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wildland Fire Management Program is formally adopting and implementing training and experience requirements for personnel who operate wildland fire engines on behalf of the BIA.

The BIA is the only partnering federal agency that does not recognize the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Engine Operator (ENOP) position and the commensurate 40-hour NWCG training course. This deficiency in training and position use results in wildland fire engine personnel not receiving adequately training to safely and proficiently drive, operate, and tactically use BIA wildland fire engines. Consequently, wildland fire engine maintenance and repair costs are increasing, and creating a break in continuity between wildland fire industry partners.

Engine Operator

The BIA Branch of Wildland Fire Management (Branch) researched several options to address these concerns, including adopting the ENOP position requirement, developing a BIA-specific Engine Academy, and requiring participation in interagency wildland fire engine academies. After analyzing the feasibility of these options, the Branch found adopting the ENOP position and its associated training course (N-9018) is most feasible.

The training for ENOP certification has many merits:

1. Engine Operator Training (N-9018) can be taught at the unit level by personnel who are qualified as Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) and Engine Boss (ENGB). Using local ENOP instructors drastically reduces implementation costs as training is held at the home unit when necessary.
2. Training covers inspecting, driving, pump operations, maintenance/winterizing, emergency driving policy and multiple tactical use scenarios.
3. Fills the experience gap between first-year firefighter (FFT2) training and Engine Boss (ENGB) training, which takes several years of experience to obtain.

4. The course material is accessible online (<https://www.nifc.gov/training/trainingFireVehicle.html>) and is available for order from the Great Basin Incident Cache Supply, Engine Operator (PMS 419, NFES 2660).
5. A dedicated steering committee and subject matter experts collaborate and revise the course every four to five years. The BIA will have a representative on the steering committee.

The following is the transition process for implementation of the ENOP Position:

1. All current and future ENGB Trainees must certify as ENOPs by January 1, 2021.
2. BIA will grandfather qualified ENGB's into the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS). ENGBs will not need to certify as ENOPs; however, the Branch highly recommends ENGB's attend either the N-9018 course or an interagency wildland fire engine academy.
3. Engine personnel who have not certified their ENGB position task book by January 1, 2021, are required to take the N-9018 course and become qualified in the ENOP position **before** becoming qualified as an ENGB.
4. All second-year and onward engine personnel, including Administratively Determined (AD) employees, are now required to take the N-9018 course. The agency Fire Management Officer has the discretion / priority to initiate an ENOP position task books. First year engine personnel will be **required** to take the BL-300 Basic Drivers Course (if expected to operate a wildland fire engine) and S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use.

Fire Management Officers will immediately prioritize and enroll two to five qualified ENGB and ICT4 personnel from their home units into an interagency wildland fire engine academy. These graduates will then instruct the N-9018 course at local units. Prioritization of personnel must be coordinated with the BIA National Director of Wildland Fire Training until the new requirement is complete, January 1, 2021.

Lights and Sirens

The Branch developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and a training course for the use of emergency lights and sirens. The training course is required for all personnel who plan to operate wildland fire engines. Operation of emergency lights and sirens must be done in accordance with State Laws and the SOP. The SOP and training curriculum will be distributed by the National Director of Wildland Fire Training, and can be referenced online at: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dfwfm/bwfm/training-qualifications>.

Appropriate Licensing for Operation of Wildland Fire Engines

Personnel who plan to operate wildland fire engines are required to have and carry the appropriate state driver's license certification. Therefore, fire program managers must ensure their engine personnel are aware of state laws and ensure all ENOPs are appropriately licensed, prior to operating any wildland fire engine.

If you have any questions, please contact Garth Fisher, Director of Wildland Fire Training, at (208) 387-5315, or Josh Simmons, Director of Wildland Fire Operations, at (208) 387-5372.