



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS


Washington, DC 20240

August 9, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## Memorandum

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

From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs 

Subject: 2021 Support for Wildland Fire and Emergency Response, Direction from the Secretary of the Interior

Please reference the attached copy of the July 15, 2021 signed memorandum from the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. The memo highlights the current state of national Preparedness Level (PL) 5 and reflects the ongoing severity of wildfires across multiple geographic areas of the United States and a substantial commitment of firefighting resources on a national level. At this time, many interagency partners, including Federal, Tribal, State, and local governmental entities, are working together to prioritize and respond to wildland fire and other emergency incidents that are threatening life, property, and valuable natural and cultural resources across the Country.

Per the memorandum, each employee with a current Incident Qualification Card (Red Card) should consider making themselves available for wildland fire and emergency response assignments. Also, Bureau of Indian Affairs supervisors should support qualified employees who request fire and emergency response assignments. Given the current national situation with significant wildland fire and other emergency incidents, we must maintain our focus and support for wildland fire and emergency response. However, please keep in mind that we must remain vigilant in all aspects of firefighter safety, with a significant portion of the fire year ahead of us.

The Secretary fully understands that this request may affect your office's priorities and program goals. However, we must maintain a commitment to assist with interagency wildland fire and emergency response to our Nation's public lands, resources, and Tribal assets.

Also, please continue to follow current Covid-19 related safety protocols per Department of the Interior guidelines.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bodie Shaw, Acting Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire Management at 503-348-6323 or by email at [bodie.shaw@bia.gov](mailto:bodie.shaw@bia.gov).

Attachment