



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

October 18, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

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

From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs *Darryl LaCount*

Subject: Policy Update - Engine Operator Course (N-9018) and Engine Operator (ENOP) Position Requirement

This memorandum serves to update policy regarding Engine Operator. The information contained will supersede the previous memo titled Engine Operator (ENOP) Position and Curriculum, Lights and Sirens Training, and Licensing for Wildland Fire Engine Operation, signed March 5, 2019.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Wildland Fire Management has formally adopted the Engine Operator course (N-9018) and Engine Operator qualification (ENOP), Federal Qualifications Supplemental-ENOP Qualification Page, training requirement for personnel who operate wildland fire engines on behalf of the BIA.

This training and position update will result in wildland fire engine personnel receiving adequate training to drive, operate, and tactically use wildland fire engines safely and proficiently. Consequently, BIA wildland fire engine personnel will be commensurately trained at the same level as our wildland fire industry partners.

The BIA Branch of Wildland Fire Management (BWM) 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), Engine Boss (ENGB) and who have completed the Facilitative Instructor Course (M-410.) Using local ENOP instructors, who have completed the ENOP train the trainer model and/or have completed a National Standard Geographic Engine Academy, drastically reduces implementation costs as training is held at the home unit when necessary and after initial instructor training is completed.

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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) course material is undergoing revision to better reflect BIA processes and policy and will be available online at BIA Fire Management-Vehicle Training.
5. A dedicated steering committee and subject matter experts collaborate and revise the course every four to five years. Expectations are that BIA will have a representative to this 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, 2022.
2. BIA will grandfather qualified ENGB's into the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS). Current ENGBs will not need to certify as ENOPs; however, the Branch highly recommends ENGB's attend either the N-9018 course or a National Standard Geographic Engine Academy.
3. Engine personnel who have not certified their ENGB position task book by January 1, 2022, are required to take the N-9018 course and become qualified in the ENOP position before becoming qualified as an ENGB.
4. All FFT1 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 book.
5. First year engine personnel (FFT2) will be required to take the BL-300 Fire Vehicle Drivers Course and S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use. Utilization of the annual BL-301 Fire Vehicle Driver refresher will also be required.

Fire Management Officers should immediately prioritize and enroll two to five qualified ENGB, who also have the qualification of ICT4 and the M-410 course, personnel from their home units into an ENOP course or National Standard Geographic Engine Academy, utilizing the train-the-trainer model. These graduates will then instruct the ENOP course at local units. Prioritization of personnel must be coordinated with the BWFM Training Development Specialist until the new requirement is complete.

Other options for course completion include scheduling the BLM traveling ENOP instructor cadre by contacting the BWFM Training Development Specialist or facilitating a regional level course, which meets or exceeds the standards of a National Standard Geographic Engine Academy, utilizing currently qualified USFS or BLM cadre.

Information regarding the use of Lights and Sirens can be found in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, BIA chapter six, Lights and Sirens Response.

Any questions regarding this new training and policy should be directed towards Garth Fisher, BWFM Training Program Manager, at garth.fisher@bia.gov, (208) 387-5315 and/or Michael Black, BWFM Training Development Specialist, at michaelj.black@bia.gov, (208) 387-5319.