

Wildland Fire Management Suppression Operations Sub-activity

Suppression Operations funds for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are managed at the national level. The Department of the Interior Budget Team monitors suppression expenditure activity, moving money among Interior bureaus to cover the FY suppression costs incurred by each bureau. The total funding for this activity within the Interior Wildland Fire Appropriation may be insufficient to cover emergency expenditures during severe fire years.

Fire Suppression Operations activity consists of three components:

- Suppression
- Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER), includes Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area rehabilitation (BAR)
- Severity (Includes long/short term severity and interagency severity assists)
 - Short term severity requests are approved and monitored at the Region Office, following procedures established by each region
 - Long term severity is approved and monitored at BIA-NIFC
 - Interagency severity assists

Uniform application of interagency policies and guidelines are necessary in WFM. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), *Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook*, PMS 902 provides direction for incident business management functions and must be utilized in all Suppression Operations. The following guidance provides a starting point to manage and ensure fire management organizations are using suppression funds appropriately.

Suppression

This functional area includes costs for managing wildfires and damages incurred by fire suppression activities

Appropriate uses

- Appropriate overtime and premium pay for personnel engaged in:
 - Wildfire suppression/management
 - Support for wildfire activities
 - Rehabilitating wildfire fire suppression activity damage
- Base salary to extend the employment period for firefighters, outside of their normal preparedness funded appointments, due to a specific suppression response
- Hiring of emergency firefighters in accordance with the current Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan for Emergency Workers
- Pre-positioning and staging of fire personnel, equipment and initial attack aircraft for fire activity expected to exceed the capabilities of the local unit
- Per diem costs for ordered personnel and/or fire reviewers
- Incident-related repair, maintenance or replacement of equipment used on a fire
- Backfilling of positions used for emergency operation activities
- Wildfire cause determination and arson investigation
- Equipment leases/contracts for the duration of a specific fire
- Rewards offered in collaboration with adjoining jurisdictional agencies that lead to the apprehension of arsonists
- Rehabilitate/repair damages caused by fire suppression efforts, IE. firelines, fire camp areas, etc.
- Payments for suppression cooperators under interagency agreements

Inappropriate uses

- Feeding and housing evacuated personnel, displaced due to wildfire activity
- Accountable property purchases (including capital equipment) are prohibited
- Costs not associated with an approved severity request, wildland fire, or Short-Term severity action.

- Awards, monetary and nonmonetary
- Funding cannot be used to meet normal unit needs identified in fire management plans which are not adequately funded through normal program allocations
- Purchase of new specialized wildland fire vehicles

Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation

This functional area includes Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation

Appropriate Emergency Stabilization uses:

- ES funds will be available for one year from fire containment
- Base 8 funding for all non-fire and hazard fuels personnel when performing ES work activities
- Fire and non-fire funded personnel overtime hours can be charged to ES projects
- AD personnel can be used on ES projects, not to exceed 90 calendar days
- Emergency equipment rental agreements for ES projects

Appropriate Burned Area Rehabilitation uses:

- BAR funding extends three years from the fire containment date
- All participants may fund their base 8 hours to BAR
- Overtime hours can be charged to BAR but careful planning should minimize, if not eliminate the need for overtime
- AD personnel cannot be used on BAR projects. BAR is not considered an emergency activity

Severity

This functional area includes the authorized use of suppression operations funds, distinct from preparedness funds, for extraordinary preparedness activities due to:

- Preparedness plans indicate the need for additional preparedness/suppression resources
- Anticipated fire activity will exceed the capabilities of local resources
- Fire seasons starting and/or lasting longer than planned in the fire management plan
- An abnormal increase in fire potential or danger, not planned for, in existing preparedness plans
- Increasing Prevention activities
- Increasing fire activity, dictating an increase in GS/Tribal firefighting/support staff
- Prepositioning of initial attack suppression forces
- Provide additional aerial reconnaissance/standby aircraft availability

Appropriate Severity uses:

- Base pay for non-fire personnel
- Base pay for seasonal/temporary fire personnel outside their normal fire activation period
- Overtime pay for fire, non-fire personnel, unless assigned to a wildfire
- Severity funded personnel/resources must be available for immediate initial attack, regardless of the daily task assignment
- Severity funded personnel/resources will not use a severity cost code while assigned to wildfires
- GSA rental and mileage
- Hourly rate or mileage for agency owned vehicles
- Commercial rentals and contracts
- Aviation contract extensions
- Daily minimum for call when needed aircraft
- Support expenses for severity funded aircraft, (facility rentals, utilities, telephones, etc.)
- Travel and per diem for severity funded personnel