

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

1. All wildland fires and fire-related incidents will be reviewed. All prescribed fires will be reviewed as appropriate.
2. Reviews are conducted for one or more of the following purposes:
 - A. To examine the progress of an on-going fire incident and to confirm effective decisions or correct deficiencies.
 - B. To identify new or improved procedures, techniques or tactics.
 - C. To compile consistent and complete information to improve or refine park, regional or national fire management programs.
 - D. To examine anomalous fire-related incidents in order to determine cause(s), contributing factors, and where applicable, recommends corrective actions. If negligence is indicated, the circumstances will be reported and investigated in accordance with applicable regulations, policies or guidelines.
 - E. To determine the cost effectiveness of a fire operation.
3. The authority to convene a fire review rests with the park superintendent, regional director, or the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education. It is the clear responsibility of the park superintendent to call for a review, to insure timely completion, and to implement recommended actions. The regional director has responsibility to follow-up with the park superintendent: that reviews are established and completed in a timely manner, and that recommended actions are completed. The park superintendent may request technical support from Fire Management Program Center, regional, park or interagency personnel with the appropriate expertise.
4. All wildland fire incidents which result in human entrapment, fatalities, or serious injuries, or result in incidents with potential, will be investigated and reviewed. See "Safety & Health" Chapter 3.
5. The Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, will convene an ad-hoc team to review Service-wide fire management programs subsequent to the occurrence of any significant, controversial or unusual wildland fire management activities.

6. All reviews will be conducted as constructive critiques aimed at determining the facts related to the specific fire or fire management program. They will identify commendable actions, techniques and decisions as well as areas which need improvement. Reviews are intended to resolve operational issues, not impose punitive actions.

Fire Reviews

"Hotline" Review. The purpose of the hotline review is to examine the progress of an on-going fire incident, regardless of size. The review will provide a confirmation of the decisions being made daily in the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis or determine where the decision process has been faulty and corrective actions are needed.

The "hotline" review is normally conducted by the park's fire management officer (or an official who has designated fire program management responsibilities) in conjunction with the incident commander on the fire.

These reviews require no special reporting. Documentation of "hotline" reviews should be included in the normal fire report narrative.

Incident Management Team (IMT) Closeout and Review. The park superintendent will conduct a closeout review with the IMT prior to their release from the fire incident. The purpose of this review is to ensure complete transition of the incident management back to the park and to evaluate the status of any incomplete fire business.

Exhibit 1 contains a sample Close-Out Review with Incident Management Team.

Park Level Review. The superintendent or his/her designated representative should conduct the park level review. The superintendent will appoint other qualified persons, including the park fire management officer (or an official who has designated fire program management responsibilities) to be a part of the review.

The purpose of this review is to provide the superintendent with information to recognize commendable actions and to take needed corrective action(s).

Costs associated with the review will be charged to the account assigned to the fire with the approval of the regional fire management officer. A copy of the complete report will be sent to the regional fire management officer, who will review it and, if appropriate, forward a copy to the Fire Management Program Center.

Regional Level Review. A regional level review may be conducted for any fire that:

1. Crosses a park's boundary into another jurisdiction without the approval of an interagency

- agreement.
2. Results in adverse media attention.
 3. Involves serious injury to less than 3 personnel, significant property damage, or an incident with potential.
 4. Results in controversy involving another agency.

The regional level review normally will be conducted at the park where the fire occurred. The regional fire management officer or his/her designated representative will convene it. The superintendent of the park will attend it. The park's fire management officer (or the official who has designated fire program management responsibilities), the incident commander(s) for the fire, and other individuals agreed upon by the regional director and superintendent.

If possible, the review team should visit the actual fire site as part of the review. A copy of the review report will be sent to the Fire Management Program Center. Costs associated with the review will be charged to the account assigned to the fire.

National Level Review. A national level review may be conducted for any fire that involves Servicewide or national issues, including:

1. Significant adverse media or political interest.
2. Multi-regional resource response.
3. A substantial loss of equipment or property.
4. A fatality, or multiple, serious fire-related injuries (three or more personnel).
5. Any other fires that the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, wants reviewed.

The national level review normally will be conducted at the park where the fire occurred. The National Fire Management Officer or his/her designated representative will convene it. It will be attended by the superintendent of the park, the park's fire management officer (or an official who has designated fire program management responsibilities), the regional fire management officer, the incident commander(s) for the fire, and other individuals agreed upon by the National Fire Management Officer, the regional director and the superintendent.

If possible, the review team should visit the actual site of the fire as part of the review. All costs associated with the review will be charged to the account assigned to the fire.

Exhibit 2 provides an outline for final reports of fire reviews.

Exhibit 3 provides a checklist of sample questions, which might be asked during a fire review. These two documents should be used for park, regional and national level reviews.

Entrapment and Fire Shelter Deployment Review. Fire shelter deployment is defined as the use of a fire shelter for its intended purpose in any situation other than training. Use of the terms "precautionary deployment", "practice deployment" and "entrapment deployment" are not acceptable or recognized.

Entrapments and fire shelter deployments will be reviewed in order to gather complete and accurate information to determine the reasons for the deployment. Corrective recommendations will be developed to minimize future situations, which might lead to other shelter deployments.

All entrapments and fire shelter deployments will be reported to the regional fire management officer, who will be responsible for developing the review team in cooperation with the Fire Management Program Center. The team leader will contact the park superintendent for reporting information. See "Safety & Health" Chapter 3 for investigation and reporting requirements.

All entrapments and fire shelter deployments will be investigated as soon as possible after the deployment incident.

Exhibit 4 provides specific directions for conducting an entrapment or shelter deployment review.

Exhibit 5 provides an outline format for final reports on entrapment and fire shelter deployment reviews.

Program Reviews

Operations Evaluations. Operations evaluations of parks and regions may include review of fire management programs to assure compliance with established Service standards.

Annual Fire Program Review. The Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, will convene an ad-hoc team to review Servicewide fire activity during any year in which significant, unusual or controversial fire activity occurs. This review team should analyze the reports from national level reviews and appropriate regional level reviews to determine what, if any, policy or operational changes should be initiated.

The review team will develop findings and recommendations and establish priorities for action.

FIREPRO Review. Periodically, national and regional fire management staff conduct FIREPRO audits and reviews of parks and regional/support office programs. See "Fire Financial Programs" Chapter 18.

Fire Readiness Review. Fire readiness or preparedness reviews, utilizing the Interagency Fire Readiness Review Guide as adapted for park-specific needs, should be conducted annually by park fire management staff. Trained regional readiness review teams should be used to conduct more in-depth, objective reviews on a scheduled basis (once every 3 to 5 years). These teams benefit from being interagency in composition. To make the best utilization of

time and to minimize impact to the park, fire program reviews and fire readiness reviews should be conducted concurrently by a single team.