

CLEARANCE FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING MEDICAL STANDARDS PROGRAM IN RELATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT PARK RANGERS AND STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTERS

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE) who are assigned **arduous** wildland firefighter duties:

If a commissioned law enforcement (LE) park ranger is also assigned *arduous* wildland firefighter duties, an **additional medical clearance** for wildland firefighting must be requested at the time of his/her LE medical exam (either during the pre-placement Baseline exam, or the Periodic exam required every 3 years).

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE) who are assigned **light/moderate** wildland firefighter duties only (non- arduous): The standalone LE exam, the Baseline or the Periodic issued every three years, qualifies the individual for the light/moderate work capacity test. No online HSQ is to be administered in the years between exams to LE. No additional check box is required at the time of the exam request.

CAS ORDERING FOR LE who are assigned **arduous** wildland firefighter duties:

Parks have designated employees approved to gain access to the Client Access System (CAS) database to request and monitor LE medicals. This person is referred to as the CAS Administrator and could be the Chief Ranger or an HR Specialist within the SHRO. At the time the exam request is initiated in the system, the CAS Administrator must check the box for “Wildland Fire Clearance” along with the exam type (Baseline or Periodic) in order for the Agency Medical Review Officer (MRO) to review the results of the exam against both the LE Medical Standards **AND** the Wildland Fire Medical Standards. If “Wildland Fire Clearance” box is not requested at this time, then the MRO will not make a medical clearance determination for *arduous* wildland fire activities. If this occurs, a separate review for this clearance will need to be requested later after the LE exam process has already been completed. This may cause significant delays to the wildland firefighter medical clearance process.

When LE is requesting to be assessed for *arduous* wildland fire clearance, they must first provide an email from their Fire Management Officer (FMO) to their CAS Administrator stating that they have *arduous* level wildland fire qualifications. Wildland fire assessments do not cover all-hazard qualifications or packtests.

LE FINAL CLEARANCE in relation to **light/moderate** wildland firefighter duties:

Once the LE exam is completed and a final medical determination is made, the results (qualified or not qualified) will be posted in the database for the CAS Administrator to print and keep in the employee’s Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) and commission file at the park. The FMO and/or packtest administrator will need a copy of your current medical determination to show that you are cleared for the light/moderate packtest.

LE FINAL CLEARANCE in relation to **arduous** wildland firefighter duties:

Once the exam is completed and a final medical determination is made, the results (qualified or not qualified) will be posted in the database for the CAS Administrator to print and keep in the employee’s Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) and commission file at the park. The SHRO will upload the clearance page into the employee’s eOPF. LE employees must provide the FMO a copy of the rating form for documentation from the CAS Administrator of qualified status for *arduous* wildland fire in the employee’s incident qualifications and certification system (IQCS) hard copy records. LE Rangers whose exam periodicity does not require them to have an exam this year should provide documentation that they are current and cleared to the FMO. LE’s needing a work capacity test (packtest) must provide the FMOs with an email from the LE CAS administrator, prior to the date of the work capacity test, with the names of the LE officers taking the test and confirmation that they are current on their LE physicals **AND** cleared for wildland fire. An LE who is cleared only for LE is not qualified for *arduous* duty wildland fire, only for light/moderate wildland fire duty as described in the section above.

LE MEDICAL EXAMS

LE medical exams differ from wildland fire. Conditions that may not disqualify an LE from performing their LE duties may cause them to not be cleared for *arduous* wildland fire fighter (WLFF) duties. LE must meet the same standards as WLFF’s if they want to perform in an *arduous* capacity for wildland fire. If an LE does

not clear the WLFF standards they must complete the WLFF Risk Mitigation or Medical Waiver process working with their local Fire Management Officer and SHRO to complete the process.

STRUCTURE FIRE EXAMS

The structure fire exam is the same process as the wildland fire medical exam with the addition of a structure fire determination. The structural side must also answer additional respirator questions. Each exam gets reviewed against the standards for which they are seeking qualification (structural or wildland) similar to the LE process.

STRUCTURE FIRE FINAL CLEARANCE

Structure firefighters who do not clear for arduous level wildland fire will follow the wildland fire risk mitigation/waiver process for ultimate wildland fire determination. Each individual who receives an arduous duty exam, with structure fire determination, will electronically receive documentation (determination letter) from Acuity stating they are medically qualified to take the Work Capacity Test. This documentation will also go to the AHJ or structural fire coordinator for the park. Only allow those individuals who either have the certificate or determination letter to take a Work Capacity Test.

FMOs with questions regarding clearance status of a structure firefighter for arduous work capacity testing should contact Michael Schell at michael_schell@nps.gov or via phone (208) 387-5786. Structure firefighters should also contact him for scheduling exams.