

Department of the Interior  
**Departmental Manual**

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**Effective Date:** 01/18/2017  
**Series:** Public Lands  
**Part 620:** Wildland Fire Management  
**Chapter 3:** Preparedness

**Originating Office:** Office of Wildland Fire

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### 620 DM 3

3.1 **Purpose.** This chapter provides policy, objectives, and requirements for the Department of the Interior (DOI) Wildland Fire Preparedness program.

A. The purpose of the Preparedness program is to provide operational capability to prevent, protect against, and respond to wildfires.

B. Wildland fire preparedness includes all wildland fire management activities conducted in advance of wildland fire ignitions to ensure a safe, effective, and efficient wildland fire response to protect human life and, property, and other values; and to achieve land and resource management objectives established in land and resource management plans.

3.2 **Scope.** The policy in this chapter applies to all DOI bureau/office activities involving wildland fire preparedness.

3.3 **Policy.** It is the policy of DOI to ensure a safe, cost-effective wildland fire management program that supports land and resource management plans through planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.

3.4 **Objectives.** The objectives of DOI's Wildland Fire Preparedness program are to:

A. Provide a safe and effective risk-based wildland fire management program in collaboration with Federal, State, Tribal and local cooperators and partners.

B. Respond to wildland fire in a cost-effective manner to support agency goals and management objectives identified in land, resource, and fire management plans and execute each organization's role and responsibilities in the interagency fire community.

C. Provide managers with relevant information and procedures based on the best available science to protect human life, property, and other values; and achieve objectives established in land and resource management plans.

D. Coordinate timely assignment and mobilization of personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of wildland fires.

E. Assess program performance to determine capability and readiness to meet agency wildland fire management objectives.

**3.5 Program Requirements.** Bureaus/offices are required to do the following:

A. Develop a suite of unit-level, regional, and national shared wildland fire preparedness assets.

B. Base the Wildland Fire Management Program on bureau/office strategic plans, land and resource management plans, fire management plans, and agreements.

C. Proactively engage cooperators, partners, and the public to conduct wildland fire preparedness activities collaboratively.

D. Provide management oversight and support to coordinate, plan, fund, train, staff, and equip, a safe, efficient and cost-effective wildland fire management program.

E. Prepare and maintain a workforce (agency administrators, supervisors, support personnel, and firefighters), trained and qualified to develop and implement wildland fire management decisions. This includes workforce planning and development, priority setting, resource deployment, contingency development, and ensuring adequate management and supervision for every response based on current and forecasted activity and conditions.

F. Acquire, secure, and maintain information on fire weather, climatology, fuels, wildland fire activity and severity, values, risks and hazards, resources, costs and other factors to provide up-to-date information at initial response, geographic area, and national levels to support collaborative priority setting, resource deployment, contingency development, and ensure adequate management, supervision, and response to predicted changes in fire severity and activity.

G. Develop and maintain information management and decision support tools and capabilities to provide support at multiple scales to the workforce.

H. Require preparedness planning at national, regional, and unit levels and document that planning in mobilization guides, operating plans, initial response plans, fire management plans, or other documents.

I. Utilize a risk-based strategic budget formulation and allocation approach to analyze wildland firefighting capability requirements nationally, regionally, and locally, to make informed wildland fire management budget formulation and asset allocation decisions at multiple scales.

J. Require that every area with burnable vegetation has an approved fire

management plan in conformance with the area's approved land and resource management plan. Fire management plans must provide for firefighter and public safety; include acceptable fire management strategies and tactics; address values to be protected and public health issues; be consistent with land and resource management plan objectives and associated values; and comply with environmental laws and regulations.

3.6 **Handbooks.** Technical or detailed instructions, or information on specific activities that supplement policies and procedures in this chapter are set forth in one or more Departmental Handbooks, pursuant to 620 DM 1.1 A (3). The Handbooks are available at <http://elips.doi.gov>.