



Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

MEMORANDUM

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game

Department of
Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

Department of
Environmental Conservation

**U.S. Department
of Agriculture**

US Forest Service

Native Organizations

Association of
Village Council Presidents

Chugachmiut

Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Structural Fire Departments
& other Organizations**

Anchorage Fire Department

DATE: June 5, 2020

TO: AWFCG Member and Affiliate Agencies supporting wildland fire management in Alaska

FROM: Clinton Northway, Chair, AWFCG *CN*

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Mitigations for Out-of-State Resource Orders

The Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) fosters safety, cooperation, coordination, collaboration and communication for wildland fire management and related activities in the State of Alaska. The AWFCG is the leadership focus for planning and implementing interagency fire management statewide.

The Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan provides operational detail for wildland fire management in the state: firefighter and public safety is the priority in all fire management activities for all agencies. To uphold this principle during the global Covid-19 pandemic, the AWFCG adheres to the mitigation measures defined by the State of Alaska. Coordination at the national level ensures that consistent safeguards are in place for firefighting resources traveling to Alaska in support of fire management.

The Governor's Order dated May 5, 2020, *Alaska Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure*, states that "Certain critical infrastructure industries have a responsibility in these times to continue operations." "First Responders" under Public Safety includes firefighters working within the realm of emergency management and emergency dispatch. State, federal and native firefighting organizations fall within this category.

Responders coming to Alaska on resource orders to assist in the protection of life and property against wildfire are subject to the Governor's Order updated June 3, 2020, *COVID-19 Health Mandate 10 on Interstate and International Travel*. The prevention and mitigation plan outlined in the Alaska Division of Forestry COVID Mitigations for Lower-48 Resources Memorandum dated May 29, 2020 serves as the approved plan for out of state resources entering Alaska.

Consistency across the wildland fire management industry and affiliate agencies serves to reduce transmission potential of the coronavirus. Serving urban, rural, and remote communities in Alaska requires diligence on all our parts to protect Alaskans and those from outside serving our emergency wildfire management needs.