



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

February 21, 2024

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
Attention: Agency Superintendents
Regional Fire Management Officers

From: Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations
Exercising the Delegated Authority of the
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

 Digitally signed by
BARTHOLOMEW STEVENS
Date: 2024.02.21 16:53:56
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Subject: Fiscal Year 2024 Short-Term and Long-Term Severity Fire Codes Guidance

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWFM) has created new Short-Term and Long-Term Severity Fire Codes for use in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024), October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The use of severity funding must comply with the guidelines established in Chapter 6, "BIA Program Organization and Responsibilities," and Chapter 10, "Preparedness," of the current Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book). The current version of the Red Book can be found at the following website: <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>.

Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Red Book standards and establishing business practices for severity use within their Wildland Fire Management programs. Appropriate Delegations of Authority should be established for Line Officers and Fire Management Officers to allow for monitoring of severity conditions and increasing capacity necessary for effective wildfire response. The intent of severity funds is to improve initial response capabilities and wildfire prevention activities when conditions require effective wildfire readiness and response. Severity should not be used to replace local unit resources that have mobilized out of their respective unit or for situations such as Prescribed Fire or base staffing.

Refer to the attachment for further requirements, details and information regarding FY2024 Short-Term and Long-Term Severity Funding. Questions or concerns may be directed to Josh Simmons, Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire Management Operations at (208) 387-5372 or email, joshua.simmons@bia.gov or Aaron Baldwin, Chief, DWFM, at (208) 387-5697 or email, aaron.baldwin@bia.gov.

Attachment: Fiscal Year 2024 Short-Term and Long-Term Severity Guidance

cc: Directorate, Environmental and Natural Resources