

National Association of
State EMS Officials



2012 Western Region Wildland Fire Credentialing Survey

5 May 2012



Demographics

- Survey launched April 17, 2012
- Sent to 12 Western Region States:
 - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
- Responses received from all 12 states



Question 1

- Name
- State



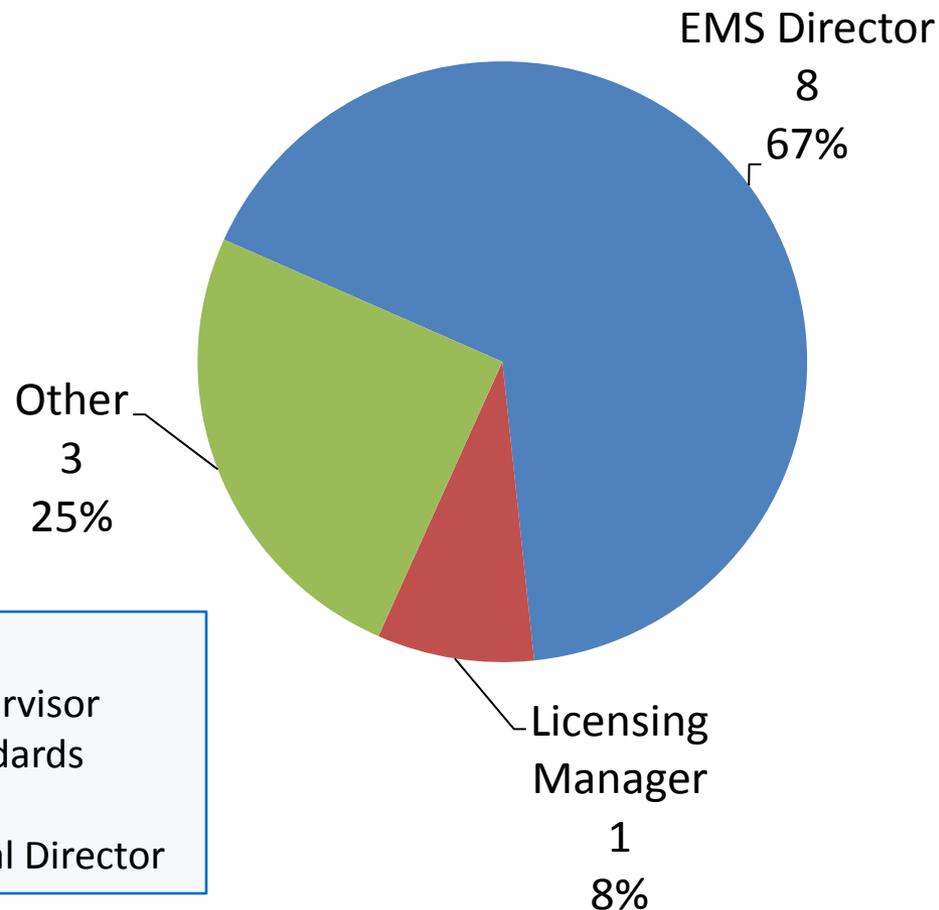
Question 2

Please provide your role:

- a) State EMS Director
- b) State EMS Licensing Manager (or equivalent)
- c) Other (please specify)



Question 2: Results (n=12)



Role?

Other:

- EMS Section Supervisor
- Professional Standards Representative
- State EMS Medical Director



Question 3

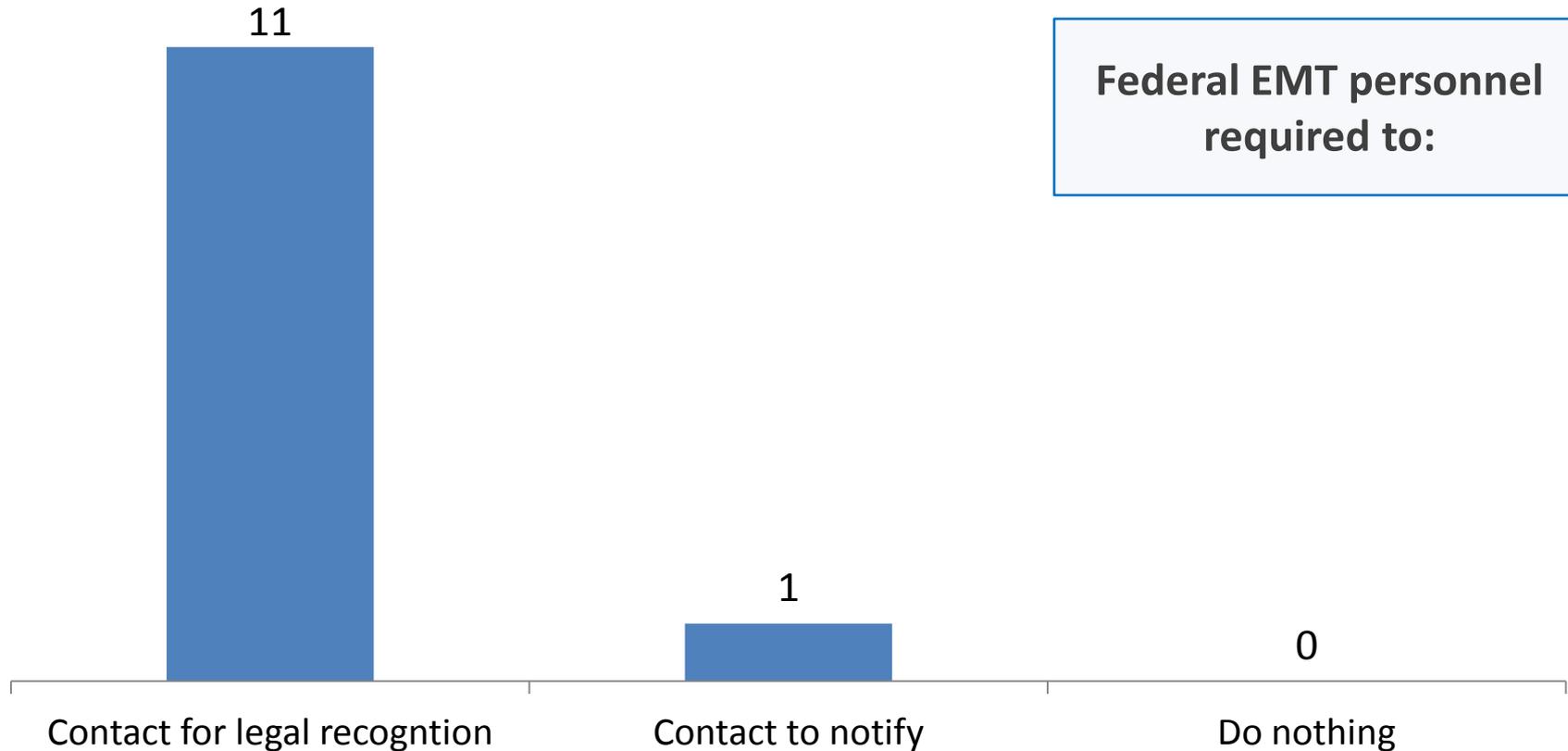
For federal employees providing medical response with the scope of practice of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at a wildland fire in your state, but who do not have an EMT license or certification issued by your state, are they required to...

- a) Contact your office to obtain legal recognition as an EMT in your state
- b) Contact your office to notify you of their presence
- c) Do nothing; they do not need to contact your office



Question 3: Results (n=12)

**Federal EMT personnel
required to:**





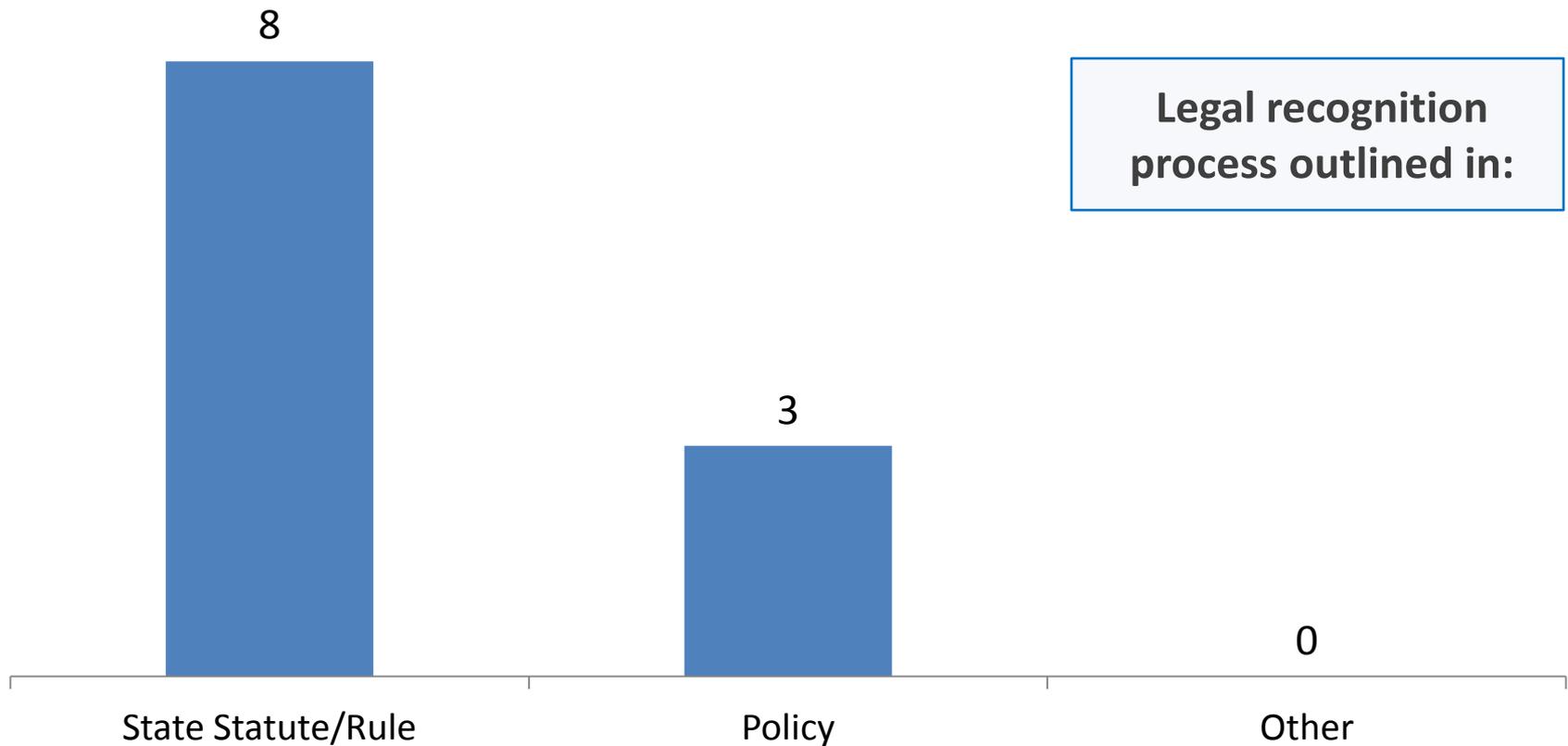
Question 4

What process is currently in place to provide legal recognition to federal employees who function as EMTs during a wildfire in your state who do not hold an EMT license or certification issued by your state?

- a) Our process is defined in state Statute or Administrative Rule
- b) Our process is implemented administratively, i.e., as policy
- c) Other (*please describe*)



Question 4: Results (n=11)





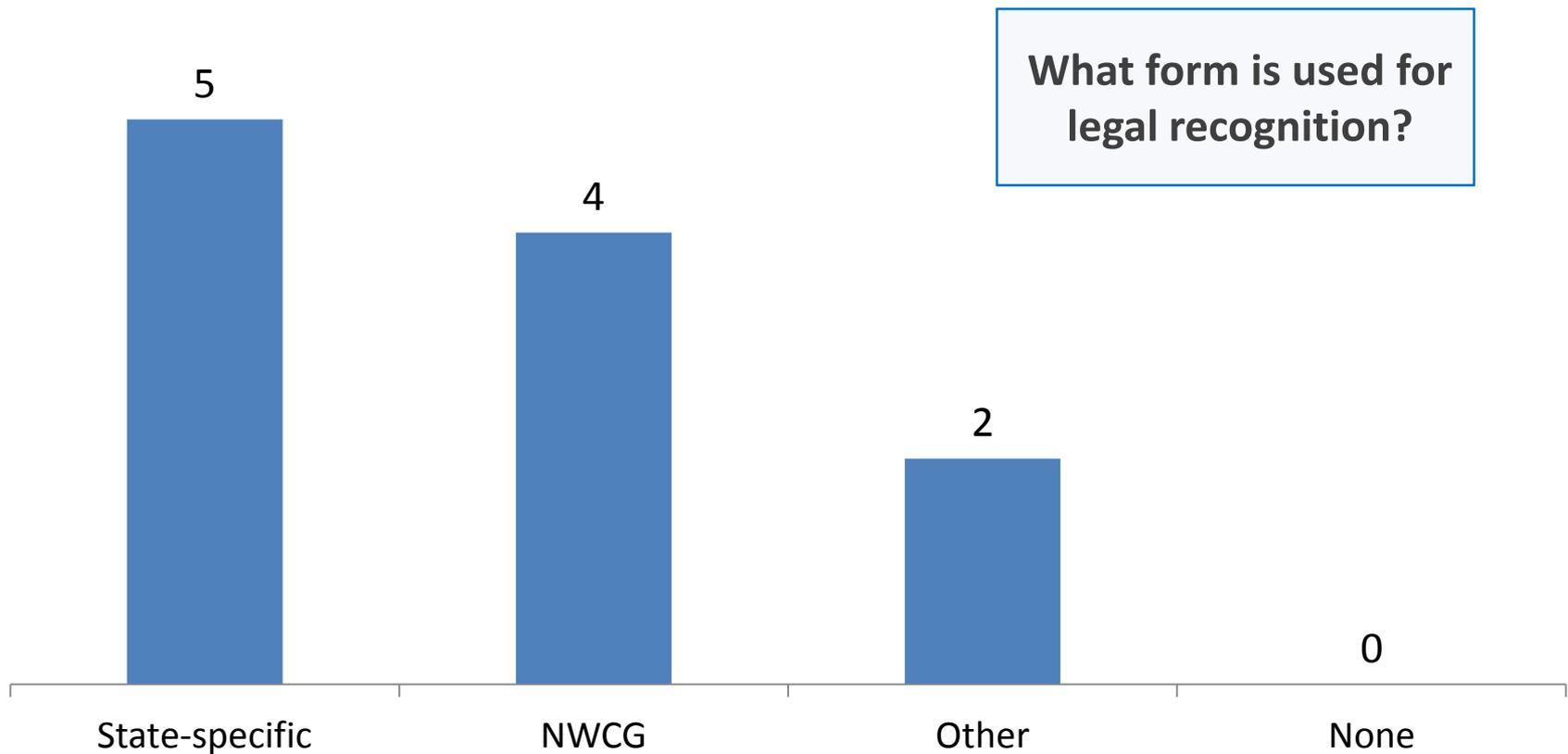
Question 5

What form do you use to provide legal recognition to these federal employees?

- a) State specific form
- b) NWCG 'Limited Request for Recognition' form
- c) None
- d) Other



Question 5: Results (n=11)





Question 6

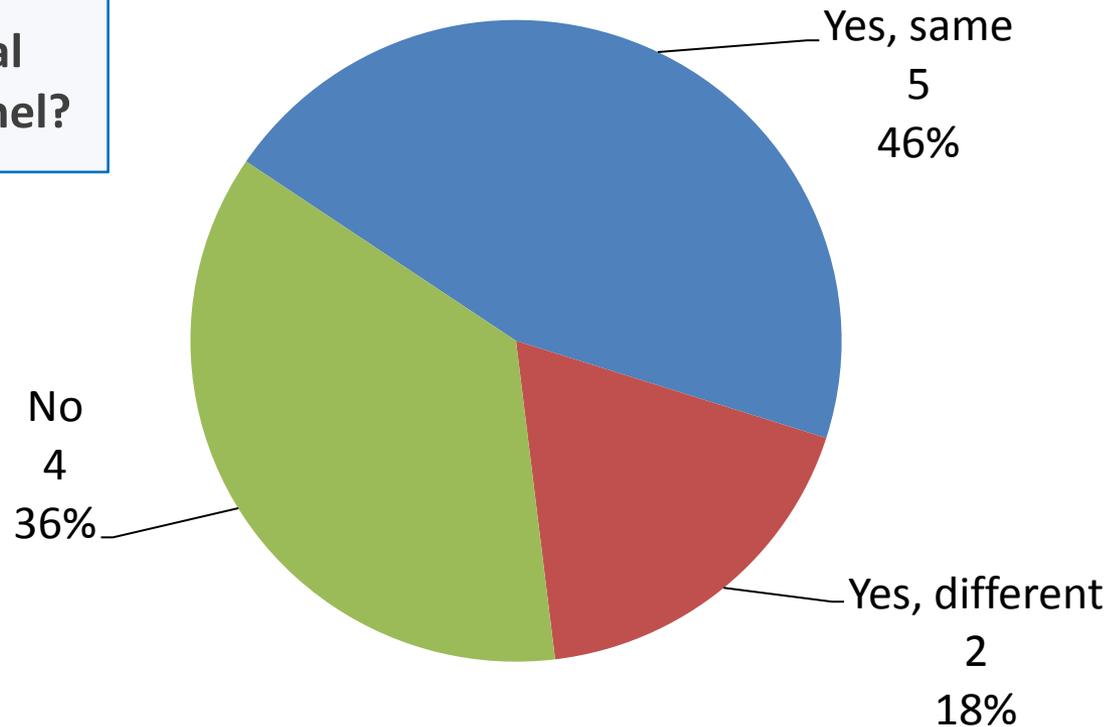
Given you have indicated that you provide legal recognition for federal EMTs who do not hold an EMT license or certification issued by your state, are you able to **pre-credential** specific EMTs for the 2012 wildfire season (**before** the wildfire has actually been declared in your state)?

- a) Yes, the process is as indicated above
- b) Yes, but the process would be different
- c) No



Question 6: Responses (n=11)

Pre-credential
federal personnel?





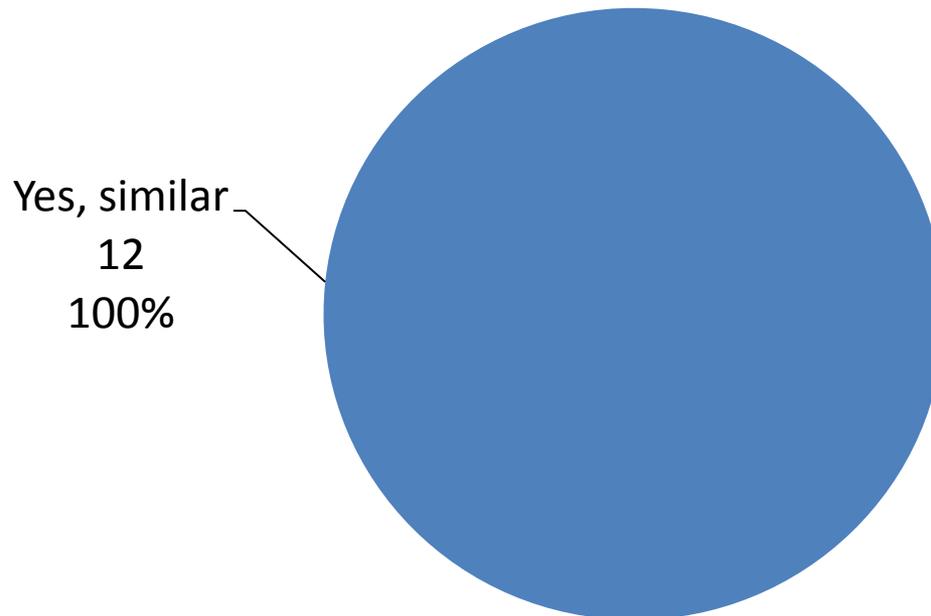
Question 7

Some federal agencies have specific structured teams that utilize non-federal (contractor) EMTs who hold a license or certification in another state. Do you have a process to provide legal recognition to contractor EMTs on these federal response teams?

- a) Yes, similar to above
- b) Yes, but the process would be different
- c) No, EMTs on federal teams who are licensed or certified in another state do not need to be credentialed to provide medical response to a wildfire in our state



Question 7: Results (n=11)



Recognition process
for contract
employees?



State-Specific Information

The following slides review each state's response to the survey



Alaska

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - When providing mutual aid...., a person who is licensed or certified in another state, territory, or nation, as an EMT, or some other designation as an emergency medical responder, may provide care consistent with the scope of practice in the state, territory, or nation of origin, so long as medical direction is provided by a physician for advanced life support procedures, and the care is not precluded by the laws of the state, territory, or nation of origin.



Alaska con't

- State-specific form
- Pre-credentialing would be possible
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Arizona

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - We have no ability (unless during a state/national emergency) to certify an EMT if they do not meet state requirements. If they meet our requirements (current NREMT) then they can easily be certified for either a **one-time**, temporary 6 month period or for a normal 2 year period.



Arizona con't

- Other form (same form for all individuals requiring AZ certification)
- Pre-credentialing would not be possible
 - EMTs have to achieve AZ certification unless state of Federal emergency
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same
 - They must gain AZ certification just like everyone else.



California

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
 - Federal personnel responding on federal lands that are not part of the local EMS system do not need to notify the local medical director.
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - An out-of-state EMT may temporarily practice in CA provided all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) Are either an NREMT OR have a valid EMT license/certificate issued by one of the following agencies of the federal government: • Any Armed Forces branch • NPS • BLM • USFS
 - b) Are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice that jurisdiction
 - c) They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the entity with whom they are licensed/certified
 - d) They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option



California con't

- NWCG form
- Pre-credentialing would not be possible
 - The only way to pre-credential out-of-state certified EMTs to practice in CA would be for those EMTs to obtain a CA EMT certification ahead of time.
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same
 - This applies to EMTs but not paramedics.



Colorado

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - Colorado does not have a recognition process specific to Wildland fire personnel. Wildland fire personnel are eligible for state certification under our existing statutes and regulations



Colorado con't

- State-specific form
 - Regular certification application
- Pre-credentialing would be possible
 - The provisional certification portion of the application would likely be applicable in the event an individual would be interested in state certification on relatively short notice. Recommendation would be to have individuals likely to be deployed to Colorado & interested in state certification complete the application process before a deployment as our regular certification process is free of charge, is based on a current NREMT credential, but does require an FBI-background check which is time consuming. Our provisional process is a time-saver that allows a name-based background check, but does not waive the fingerprint requirement
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Idaho

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule. An individual:
 - who is currently licensed or certified by another State to provide emergency medical care can apply to the EMS Bureau for limited recognition to practice in Idaho. Limited recognition does not grant an individual the ability to practice outside of those specified and approved by the EMS Bureau.



Idaho con't

- State-specific form
 - Based on NWCG form
- Pre-credentialing would be different
 - This would be a departure from what we have done in previous years, but we are willing to modify our process to allow this as it makes sense.
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Montana

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - An EMT currently licensed & in good standing in another state may function during a state and/or federally managed incident under Montana statewide protocols, policies, & procedures but shall comply with all of the following:
 - EMT's practice limited to duration of state/federally managed incident
 - practice contained within the designated geographic incident area
 - practice at the basic level, even if licensed at a higher level in home state
 - Unless: individual is licensed at an EMT-I or EMT-P, & the incident has Montana licensed physician medical control who authorizes functioning beyond the basic level
 - provide current state licensure proof in good standing
 - submit the appropriate form to the board



Montana con't

- State-specific form
- Pre-credentialing would be possible
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



New Mexico

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule; the individual:
 - must be responding to a specific emergency incident;
 - shall contact the EMS bureau prior to beginning EMS operations in NM;
 - shall provide copies of individual certification or licensure from another state or the national registry;
 - shall provide a national wildland fire request for recognition form;
 - shall provide evidence of written medical protocols and scope of practice; the bureau may restrict the provided scope of practice; &
 - shall contact the local EMS system for coordination of services.
 - maximum approved time for out-of-state licensure for a specific emergency incident is thirty (30) days and may be renewed on a case by case basis



New Mexico con't

- NWCG form
- Pre-credentialing would be different
 - The request for recognition is received by the federal team leader, along with copies of active/valid state licensure. That person forwards this list and documentation to this bureau for preregistration.
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Nevada

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in policy
 - Federal personnel (BLM, USFS, BIA, etc.) receive their "Red Cards" in accordance with NWCG standards, BLM 310-1, etc. State and local governments in NV recognize the Red Card.
 - Most wildland fires in NV end up being shared responsibility between a federal agency and a local agency



Nevada

- NWCG form
- Pre-credentialing would be possible
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Oregon

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in policy
 - Incident Commander or Manager of Federal event should notify State EMS & Trauma office of event and within 24 hours of mobilization fax the Limited Request for Recognition Form along with a list and License # or NREMT # of EMS personal to the EMS & Trauma Office



Oregon con't

- NWCG form
- Pre-credentialing would be possible
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Utah

- Notify EMS office of presence
- Process would be the same for contract employees



Washington

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in policy:
 - Provider's home state EMS office contacted to verify currency & status of the person's credential.
 - Any person whose credential is not or cannot be verified is eliminated from the original list.
 - Letter generated advising that the people identified have been confirmed to hold a current WA credential; they are granted temporary recognition (typically no longer than 2 weeks). They are allowed only to work on the fire and only under the direction of the Medical Unit Leader. All EMS providers are expected to function to the scope of practice of EMS providers in WA & cannot vary from our protocols & scope.
 - Medical Unit provided the name and contact information of the Physician Medical Program Director(s)(MPD) in the area of the fire ground. They are expected to contact the MPD and the local EMS and Trauma System office to establish communication. The wildland folks are required to utilize local EMS resources for transport & ancillary support as needed.



Washington con't

- Use a different form
 - Medical Unit Leader sends a list of the personnel who will be deployed. List includes name, state, credential number, NREMT number, DOB
- Pre-credentialing would not be possible
 - Because WA needs to do a credential and background verification, the verification needs to be as current as possible.
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same



Wyoming

- Contact the EMS office to obtain legal recognition
- Process is outline in state Statute/Rule
 - There is no automatic reciprocity/certification with any state, Paramedic Program, or via the National Registry of EMT's for prehospital providers.
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) & Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation background checks are required before a prehospital certification is issued by the OEMS.
 - Applicants must supply: EMT course information (course completion certificate, documentation of clinical, lab, internship, field and didactic hours); current BLS Healthcare Provider CPR card; documentation of all continuing medical education that has been completed within the past two years.
 - State exam must be taken



Wyoming con't

- State-specific form
- Pre-credential would not be possible
 - Currently the process is the same for everyone regardless of originating state; there is no process for pre-credentialing. We do not have an expedited process or a way to maintain and then "activate" someone in our system.
- Credentialing of contract employees would be the same