



## National Wildfire Coordinating Group

National Interagency Fire Center  
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### MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#009-2012

To: NWCG Committee Chairs  
Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs  
National IC/AC Council Chair

From: NWCG Chair *Ator Bidabwa*

Date: July 25, 2012

Subject: Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Wildland Fire Medical Units

The necessity of identifying a systematic approach for the care of the sick and injured on wildland fire incidents has expanded over the last thirty (30) years. As NWCG member agencies continue to develop and adopt a contemporary "Leader's Intent" for our leaders of today and tomorrow, so too does the wildland fire emergency medical services (EMS) field. These Clinical Treatment Guidelines were developed by the NWCG Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS) and were reviewed by physicians familiar with the wildland fire environment.

The mission of medical units on incidents has evolved into a complex service which seeks to improve the delivery of on-site health care by: 1) the stabilization and emergency care and treatment of incident personnel, 2) providing occupational health remedies and preventative measures to remain safe and healthy, and 3) to minimize the costs associated with the care of ill and injured personnel.

The attached *Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Wildland Fire Medical Units (PMS 551)* will provide a common national approach for the medical care outside the typical EMS scope of practice. These guidelines reflect the current mission to manage and maintain the health and wellness of all wildland fire personnel.

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; EMS Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach and Implementation Guide* were used as a reference in the development of these Clinical Treatment Guidelines. However, since it is impossible to include all medical conditions and situations in a single document, it is expected that individual agencies will make additions or modifications based on their needs, the available resources, and with the concurrence of respective sponsored medical directors.

For questions, please contact IEMS at: [BLM\\_FA\\_NWCG\\_IEMS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_FA_NWCG_IEMS@blm.gov)

Attachment A: Clinical Treatment Guidelines for  
Wildland Fire Medical Units  
(PMS 551)

cc: NWCG Executive Board  
Program Management Unit (PMU)  
Budget Advisory Unit (BAU) Chair  
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