

## **New River Gorge National River (U.S. National Park Service, West Virginia)**

### **Fire COVID 19**

#### **Staffing Plan**

Staffing levels will be based on National and Eastern Area Planning Levels and the current/predicted NERI NFDRS Fire Danger Rating, which promotes "social distancing" yet ensures that the appropriate level of fire staff is readily available based on current and expected fire weather and fire behavior forecasts and predictions.

**Timeframe:** Until further notice

**Objectives:**

- 1) Health and safety of our firefighters.
- 2) Fire preparedness and response.
- 3) Limited activity within the fuels program (NO Prescribed Fire).
- 4) Incident Management Team (IMT) Support related to Wildland Fire and Aviation AND COVID 19 Response will be managed jointly at the Regional and Park Level to ensure proper communication and staffing coverage meets the DOI Mission.

Fire crew may stage Engine and Crew Truck at Burnwood for quick access. The Engine is assigned to Engine Boss and the Crew Truck is assigned to FFT1 Trainee. If any of these vehicles are used during the shift the interior is to be wiped down with disinfectant wipe/spray in the event the vehicle needs to be reassigned to a different driver.

There will be one Engine Staged at Grandview, driver to be assigned if engine is needed on an incident, or for extended staffing/severity/Step Up, the interior is to be wiped down with disinfectant wipe/spray at the end of shift in the event the vehicle needs to be reassigned to a different driver.

FMO will Check in with the Fire Staff daily between 0815 and 0845 to be advised of any special missions or changes in program of work. Employees will be available by phone, email, and/or teams, if you believe you will be out of cell phone communications please carry a radio with spare charged batteries.

**NFDRS Low Fire Danger Staffing Levels** – Fire Staff will work from home on computer-based training, assisting the FMO in updating plans, JHA's and assure one hour of PT is taken at some point in an 8-hour Duty day. Fire Staff may work from office as the need arises for high speed internet, unable to access the VPN network, access Park Network Drives, large amount of priming, etc. Remember to maintain COVID 19 precautionary measures.

**NFDRS Moderate Fire Danger Staffing Levels** – Assure PT is taken before 1300 patrol duties may be assigned. Fire Staff may work from office as the need arises for high speed internet, unable to access the VPN network, access Park Network Drives, large amount of priming, etc. Remember to maintain COVID 19 precautionary measures.

**NFDRS High/Very High/Extreme Staffing Levels** - Area Programs will be fully staffed within their respective Area of responsibility.

**\*Regional Wildland Fire and Aviation Officer / DO and Fire Program Area FMO/DO will evaluate the NFDRS next day forecasted fire danger combined with the Zone staffing plan to support decisions.**