



File Code: 5100
Route To: (5100)

Date: February 20, 2013

Subject: Chief's Letter of Intent - 2013 Fire Season

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, IITF Director
and Deputy Chiefs

We anticipate 2013 to be another challenging year to manage fire. We will successfully manage fire on the landscape and fully evaluate risks with a broad perspective and consideration for the people we serve and landscapes we protect.

Success continues to be defined as *safely achieving reasonable objectives with the least firefighter exposure necessary, while enhancing stakeholder support for our management.*

The fundamental principles we embrace for success are:

- Everyone, every day, returns home safely.
- Safety is not just how we do our work; it is the essence of how we make decisions.
- We assess, analyze, communicate, and share risk before, during, and after incidents.
- We do not accept unnecessary risk or transfer it to our partners.
- Every fire meets reasonable objectives, and receives a safe, effective, and efficient response.
- Strategy and tactical decisions will be driven by probability of success to meet reasonable objectives.
- Before, during, and after every fire we enhance relationships.
- We create a respectful work environment for everyone involved in fire.
- We learn from every experience and use that knowledge to improve.

Implementing the Forest Service Wildland Fire Response Protocol will help achieve success.

We have outstanding employees who work in and who support wildland fire management. I am encouraged and committed to the continuous improvements we are making. These improvements will provide value to the people we serve. Thank you for your commitment and service towards making 2013 a successful fire season.

/s/ **THOMAS L. TIDWELL**

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

cc: Tom Harbour, James E Hubbard

Enclosure

