



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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June 13, 2020

In Reply Refer To:
Subject Code 9210 (AK9F0000)

Memorandum

To: Wildland Fire Resources Ordered for BLM Alaska Fire Service

From: Kent Slaughter
Deputy State Director, Fire and Aviation

Subject: Cooperation in Alaska's Efforts to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 - Updated

The BLM Alaska Fire Service mission includes protecting the Alaskan public and our firefighters. We have worked closely with the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) as they implement additional requirements for out-of-state resources responding to Alaska. As part of this effort, responders on resource orders to come to Alaska are also being asked to assist in efforts to combat and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Alaska.

COVID-19 testing is one of the many steps the State of Alaska is taking to protect wildland fire responders as well the communities and villages they may be asked to help protect. Although voluntary for federal resources, the BLM Alaska Fire Service supports the State of Alaska request that all firefighters follow their procedures for free testing as part of our interagency hazard mitigation efforts. The testing efforts do not guarantee every responder is COVID-19 free, but they supplement key prevention and mitigation strategies such as the use of protective barriers, screening procedures, social distancing, and good hygiene protocols. Testing is one of the steps identified by the Alaska Division of Public Health to reduce risk to firefighters and the public. These steps are different from those for most travelers to Alaska and **do not** include the option for a COVID-19 test prior to departure to Alaska.

Additional information for all incoming resources includes the following:

- It is recommended that incoming resources travel and arrive at the receiving unit with an initial supply of specialized personal protection equipment, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting supplies. Personnel should plan to travel self-sufficient for three days.
- [NWCG Wildfire COVID Screening Requirements](#) should be fulfilled at the home base prior to departure.

- Free COVID-19 testing provided by the Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH) is available immediately upon arrival to Alaska at the following locations:
 - If you are arriving in **Anchorage** (Ted Stevens International Airport), you must pre-register by accessing the Capstone COVID 19 Testing Pre-Registration Portal at [Capstone COVID Testing Registration](#). Select the Critical Infrastructure button.
 - If you are arriving in **Fairbanks** (Fairbanks International Airport), you must pre-register by accessing the Beacon COVID19 Testing Pre-Registration Portal at [Beacon COVID Testing Registration - Wildland](#). When resources register through this website they must input their planned arrival date and time so that the testing company can ensure they have staff on hand for the test. The testing location is in the Fairbanks International Airport near Baggage Claim 2.
- Incoming resources will track their physical contacts from the time of departure from their home unit throughout their assignment.
- Resources will wear the proper personal protective equipment and practice social distancing when possible.
- Resources will be self-sufficient and directed by resource order as to reporting requirements. Single resources are likely to be required to obtain a vehicle, self-quarantine in a hotel, and report to their ordering unit, minimizing contacts.
- If directed by resource order, resources may be picked up at the airport by designated agency personnel with pre-arranged logistical support (lodging, transportation, subsistence). COVID-19 PPE will always be worn during these transports.
- You will be notified of your test result as soon as possible, generally within 24 to 48 hours.
- If your test results are positive you will be contacted by the DHS with further instructions on self-isolation, monitoring, and contact tracing.
- If you have any questions regarding testing, contact State Logistics Center Coordinator, Teresa Rose at teresa.rose@alaska.gov or (907) 378-0536.

Special Instructions for Personnel on a Fire Resource Order:

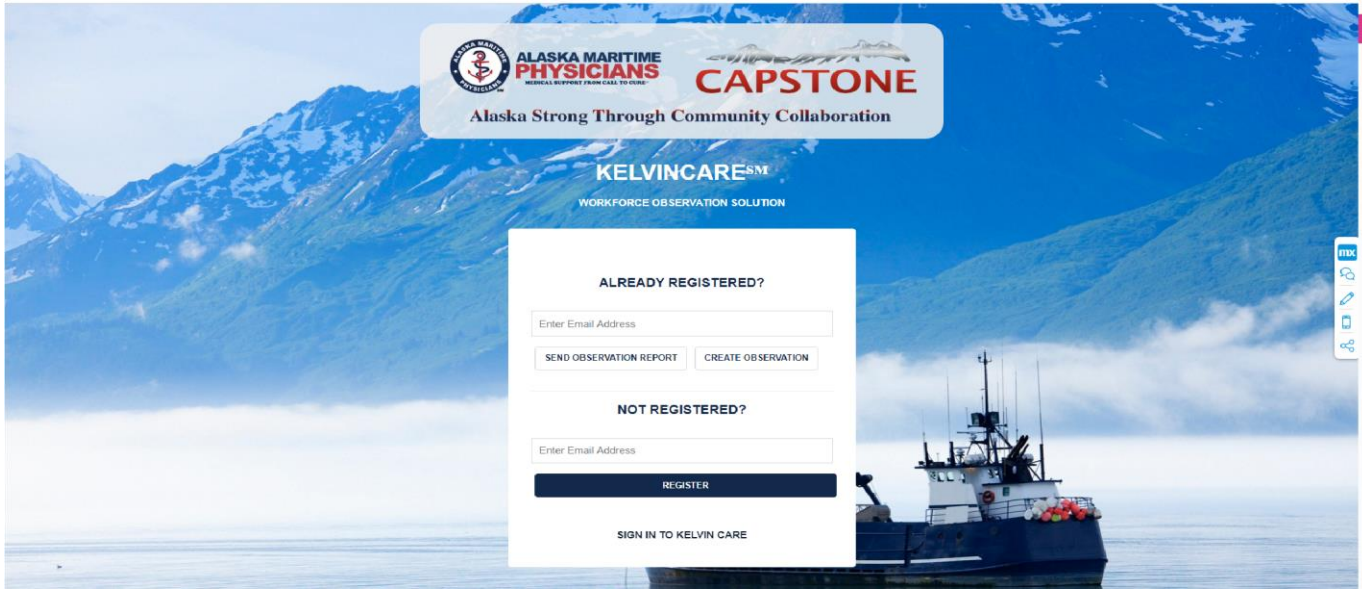
The DOF in coordination with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has developed the following direction for an emergency response to provide protection of life and property, wildland firefighters and support personnel will use the following procedures:

- After completing testing at the airport, proceed to check-in location as documented on the resource order.
- To protect yourself, your crew, your camp, and your host unit, use due diligence to follow fire and continue to follow COVID-19 best practices including self-screening, hygiene, social distancing, and face coverings.

Special Instructions for Personnel on a Pre-Position Resource Order

- After completing testing go directly to your pre-arranged lodging and remain self-quarantined until you receive your results. This includes ordering food for delivery to your room and not spending time pending results of your test.
- **Do not** report to your duty station prior to receiving your results.

The BLM Alaska Fire Service will continue to work with the Division of Forestry as well as follow Bureau, Departmental, Fire Management Board, and CDC guidance on best practices for all mobilizations. This direction will be updated as needed.



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Enter Email Address

NOT REGISTERED?

Enter Email Address

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PROFILE IDENTIFICATION

Company

Project

For the Company use Alaska Directed State Activity (Fishing/Firefighters)
 For Project, Select Ted Stevens C19

PROFILE INFORMATION

First name <input type="text"/>	Last name <input type="text"/>	Date of birth <input type="text" value="m/d/yyyy"/>
Email <input type="text" value="snuffysmith@email.com"/>	Cell phone (### ###-####) <input type="text"/>	

ADDRESS INFORMATION

Address line1 <input type="text"/>	Address line2 <input type="text"/>	
City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>	Zip <input type="text"/>