



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (WO)
WASHINGTON, DC**

**FSH 5109.17 - FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT
QUALIFICATIONS HANDBOOK**

CHAPTER 10 - NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Approved: JOEL D. HOLTROP

Date Approved: 04/05/2004

Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry

Posting Instructions: Amendments are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last amendment to this Handbook was 5109.17-2004-1 to 5109.17_zero_code.

New Document	5109.17_10	15 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	5109.17_10 (Amendment 5109.17-2003-2, 06/25/2003)	15 Pages

Digest:

11.1 - Changes the caption for this section to “Qualifications” Charts for Incident Command System.

Incorporates the key to the organizational charts and the acronyms into exhibit 01, and renumbers the subsequent exhibits as 02 through 10 (formerly 01-09).

Updates a number of entries in the position qualification blocks contained in exhibits 02 through 10 to reflect changes in section 25 for training requirements, experience, physical fitness, and other position assignments.

12.04 - Adds authority for the Regional Directors of Fire and Aviation Management to establish exceptions to the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Instructor Training Requirements.

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11 - NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(For further direction, see FSM 5133.)

All wildland fire protection agencies are organized to manage forest, brush, and grass fires within their jurisdictions. They can usually manage large, complex fires with their own resources. However, additional or substantial outside assistance may be required at times. To address this need, a nationwide multi-agency management system has been adopted, called the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS), which provides the total systems approach necessary for response in emergency situations involving a wide range of natural or human-caused incidents.

NIIMS consists of five major subsystems, which together provide a total approach to incident management. The subsystems and their functions are as follows:

1. Incident Command System (ICS). An on-scene structure of generic management-level positions suitable to manage any incident.
2. Training. Development and delivery of training courses.
3. Qualifications and Certification. National standards for qualifications and certification for ICS positions.
4. Publications Management. Development, control, sources, and distribution of NIIMS publications provided by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).
5. Supporting Technology. Technology and systems used to support an emergency response, such as orthophoto mapping, National Fire Danger Rating System, remote automatic weather stations, automatic lightning detection systems, infrared technology, and communications.

11.1 - Qualifications Charts for Incident Command System

Exhibits 02 through 10 display the qualifications and reporting lines for Incident Command System (ICS) positions for the most complex incidents.

Following is the key to the qualification flow charts. The charts in this section show the progression of qualifications from one position to another within the Incident Command System. These charts are not organization charts. Each box within the charts contains information pertaining to prerequisite qualifications, training, and physical fitness and should be read as shown in the diagram and in exhibit 01, which provides a key to the qualification flow charts (ex. 02-10) and also a list of the acronyms used in the charts.

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Exhibit 01. Key to Qualifications Flow Charts.

Exhibit 02. Area Command.

Exhibit 03. Command and Staff.

Exhibit 04. Operations Section.

Exhibit 05. Air Operations.

Exhibit 06. Planning Section.

Exhibit 07. Logistics Section.

Exhibit 08. Finance/Administration Section.

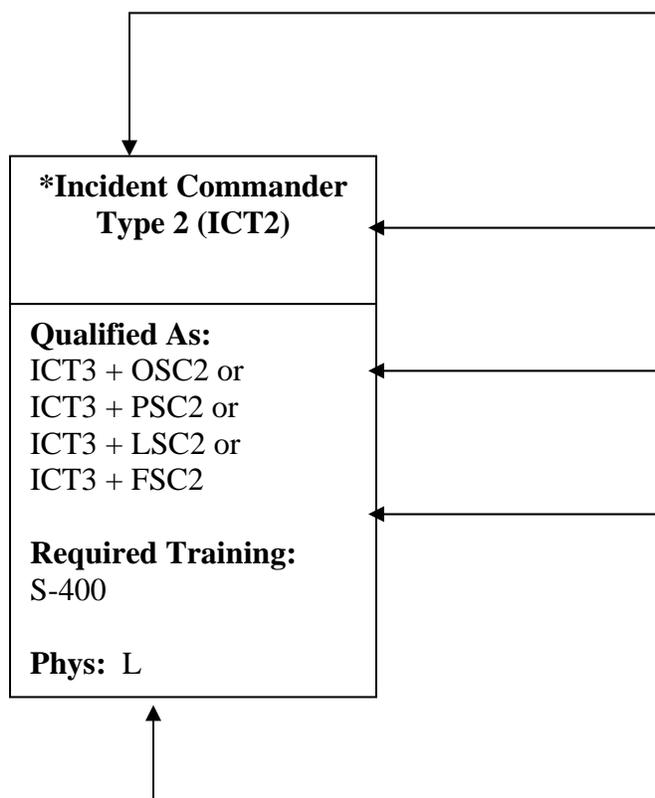
Exhibit 09. Expanded Dispatch.

Exhibit 10. Prescribed Fire Use.

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11.1 - Exhibit 01

KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS FLOW CHARTS



An asterisk (*) indicates that a position performance assignment on a wildland or prescribed fire is needed prior to final qualifications in this position.

Job title and mnemonics identifier for position. For a complete list of approved NWCG mnemonics consult the Incident Qualifications and Certification website: <http://iqcs.nwcg.gov/>

Positions (listed by mnemonics) for which a prerequisite qualification is required.

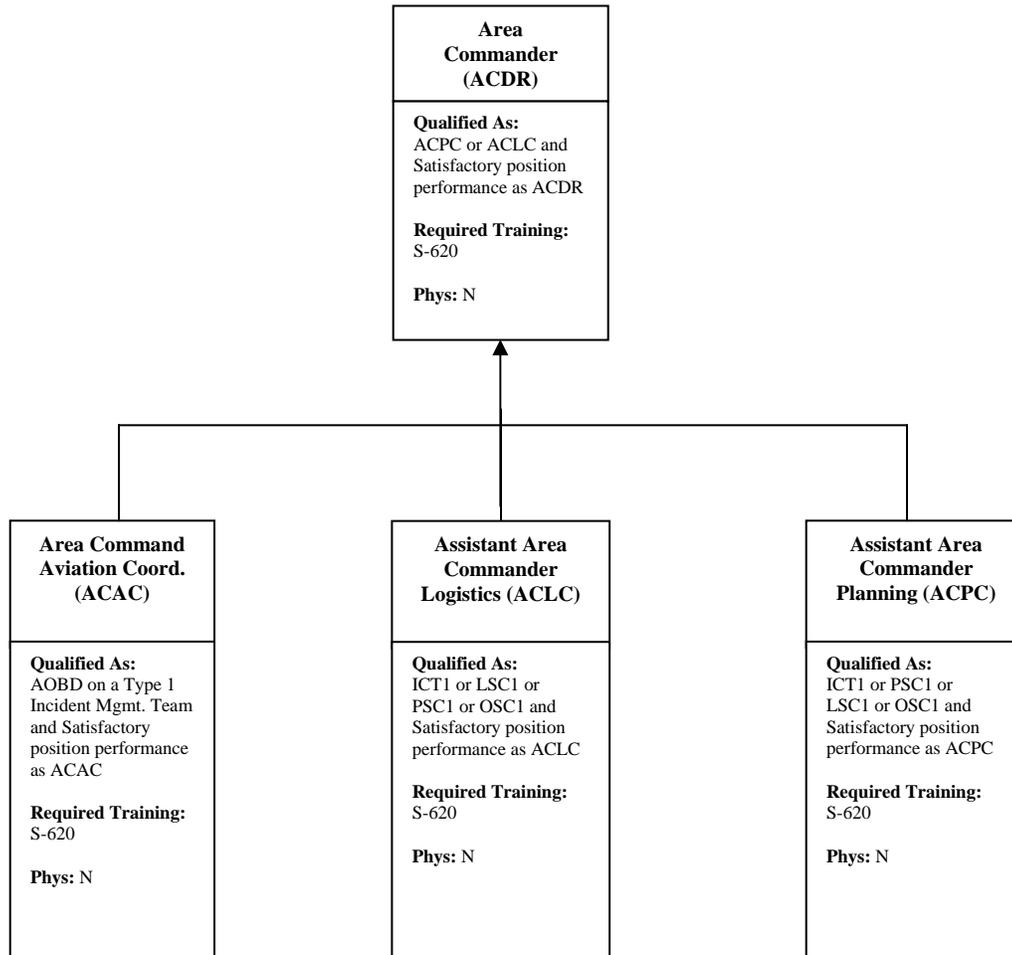
Training course(s) required for qualification in this position. See sections 21-25 of this Handbook for a complete list of required training, knowledge, and skills needed.

Required level of physical fitness for this position:
A – Arduous, M – Moderate,
L – Light, N – None.

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11.1 - Exhibit 02

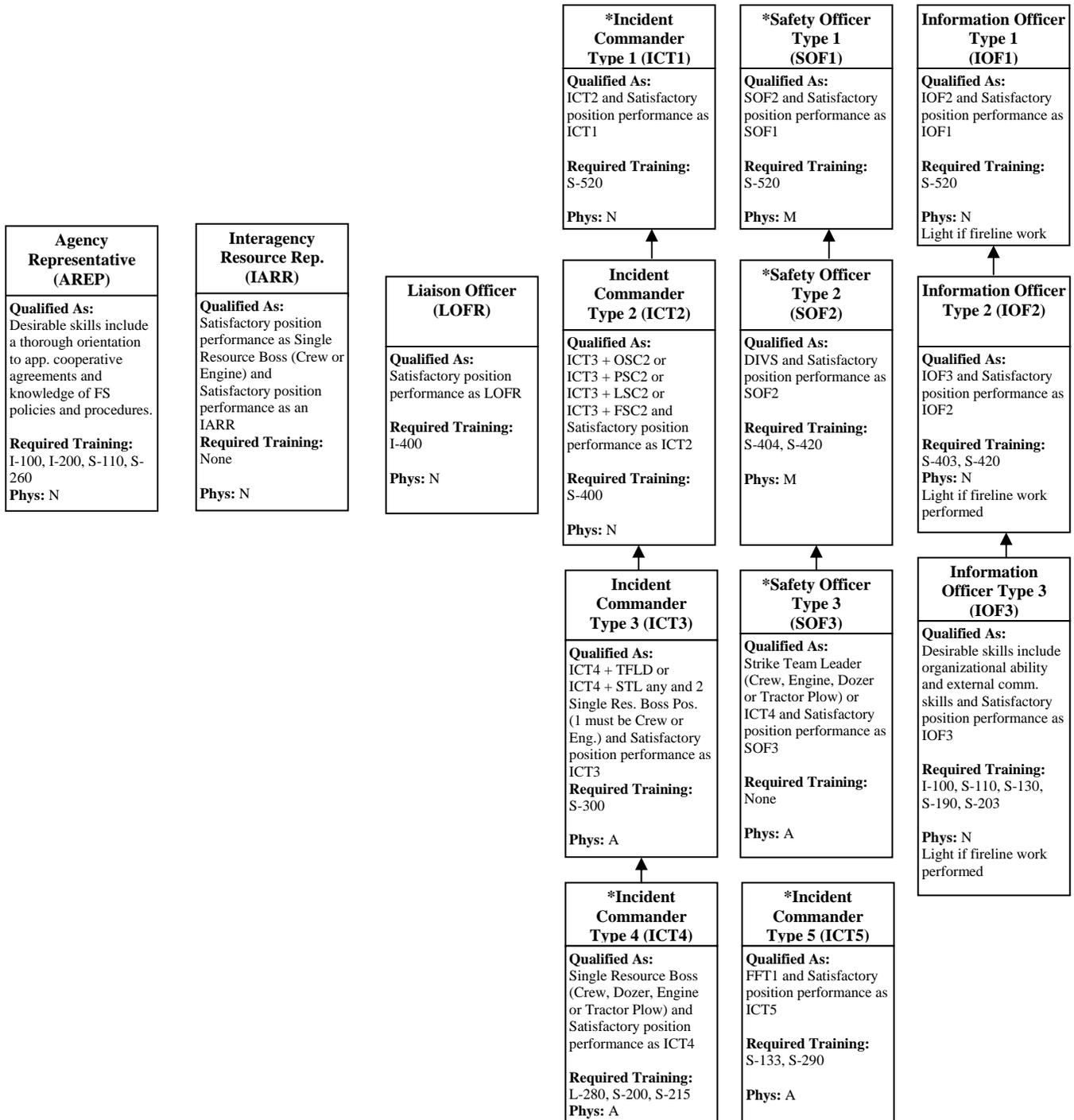
AREA COMMAND



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11.1 - Exhibit 03

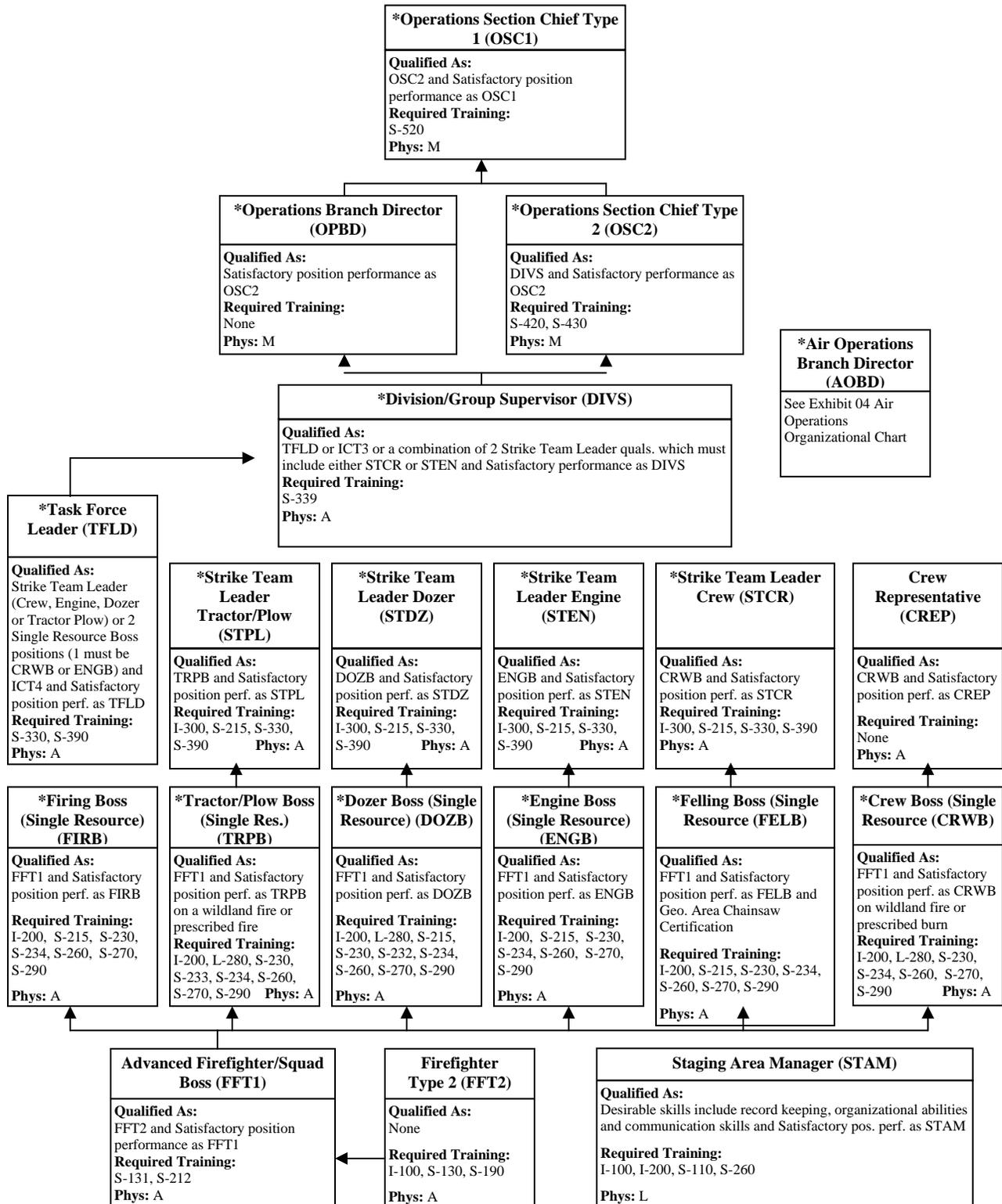
COMMAND AND STAFF



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11.1 - Exhibit 04

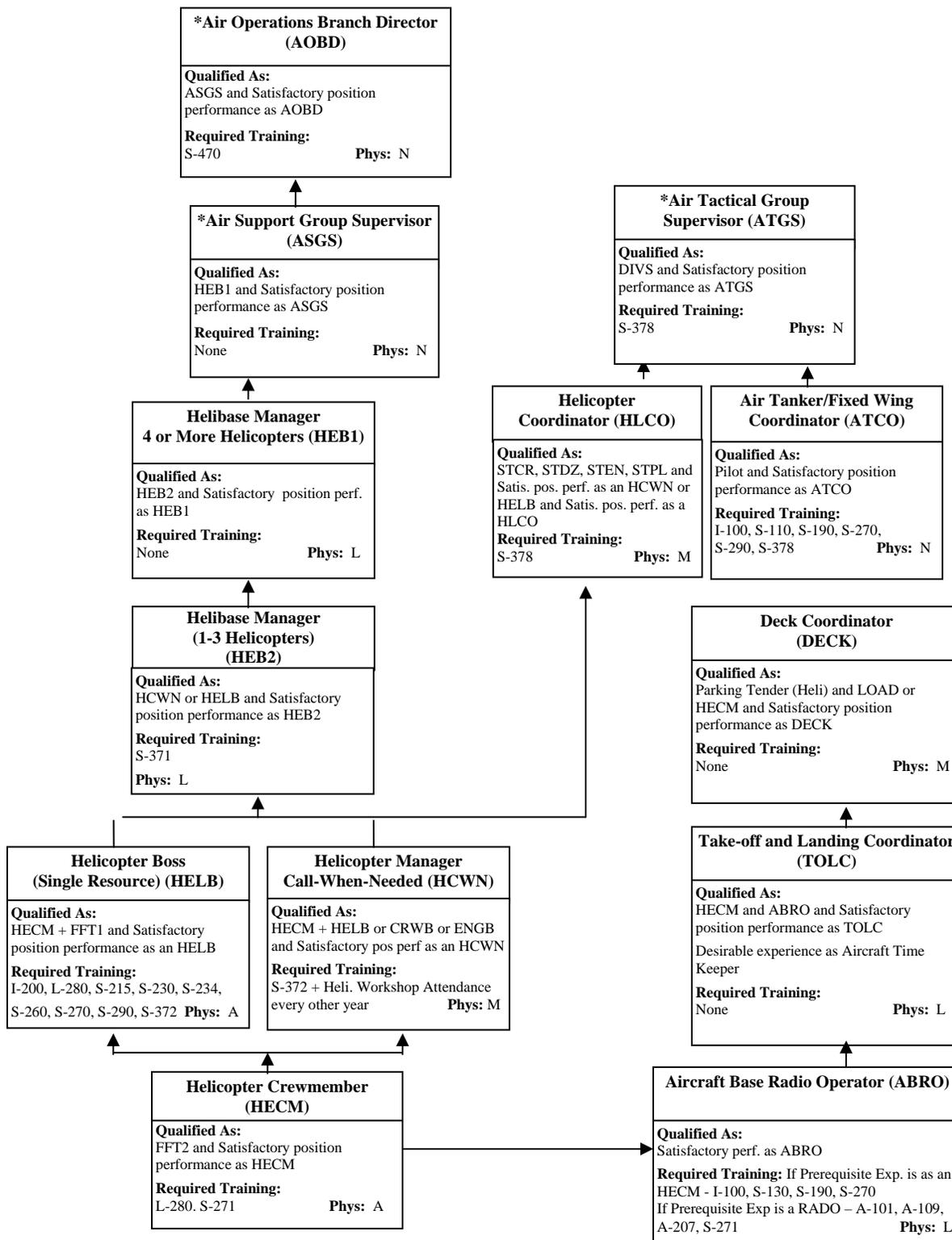
OPERATIONS SECTION



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11.1 - Exhibit 05

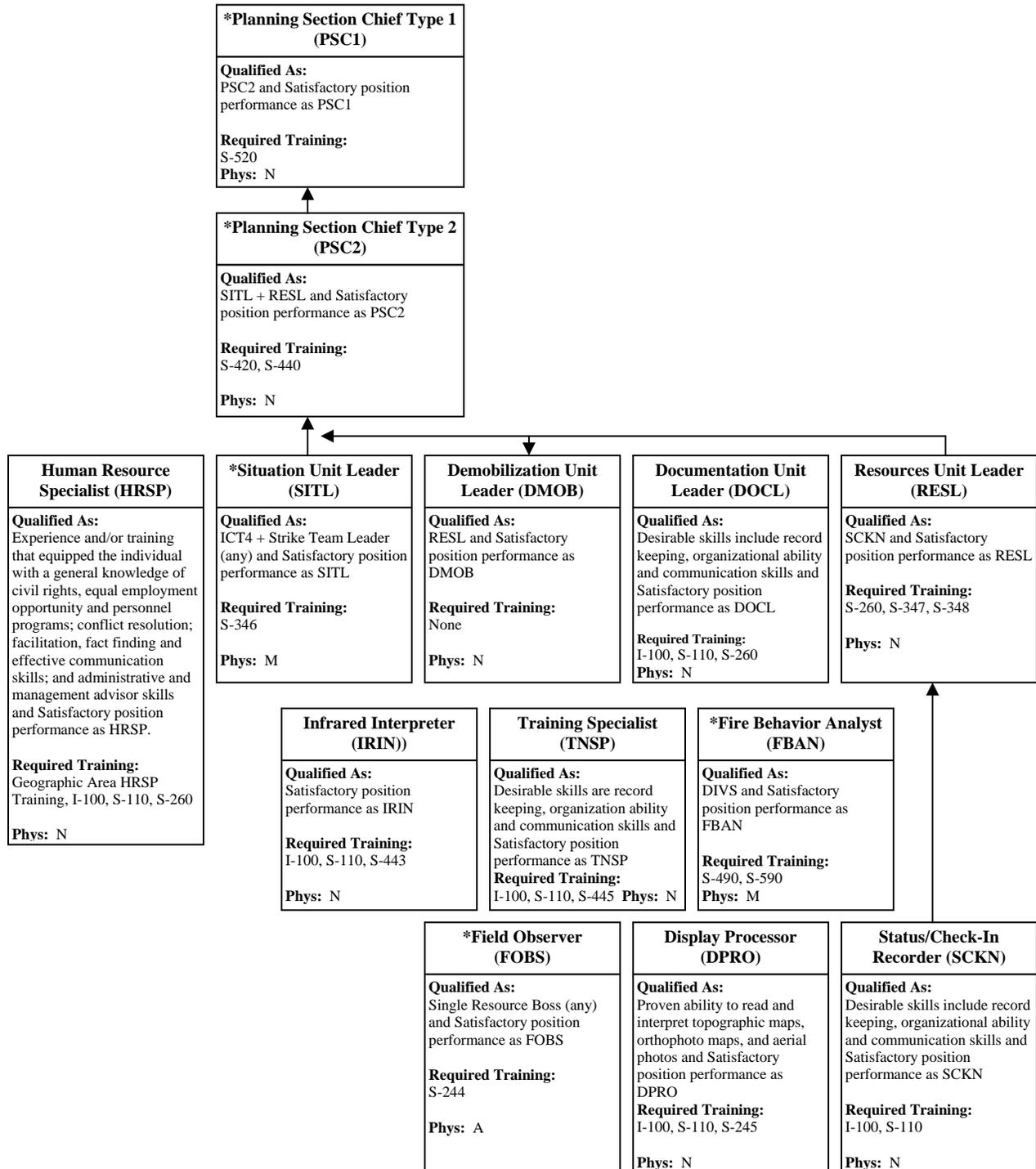
AIR OPERATIONS



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11.1 - Exhibit 06

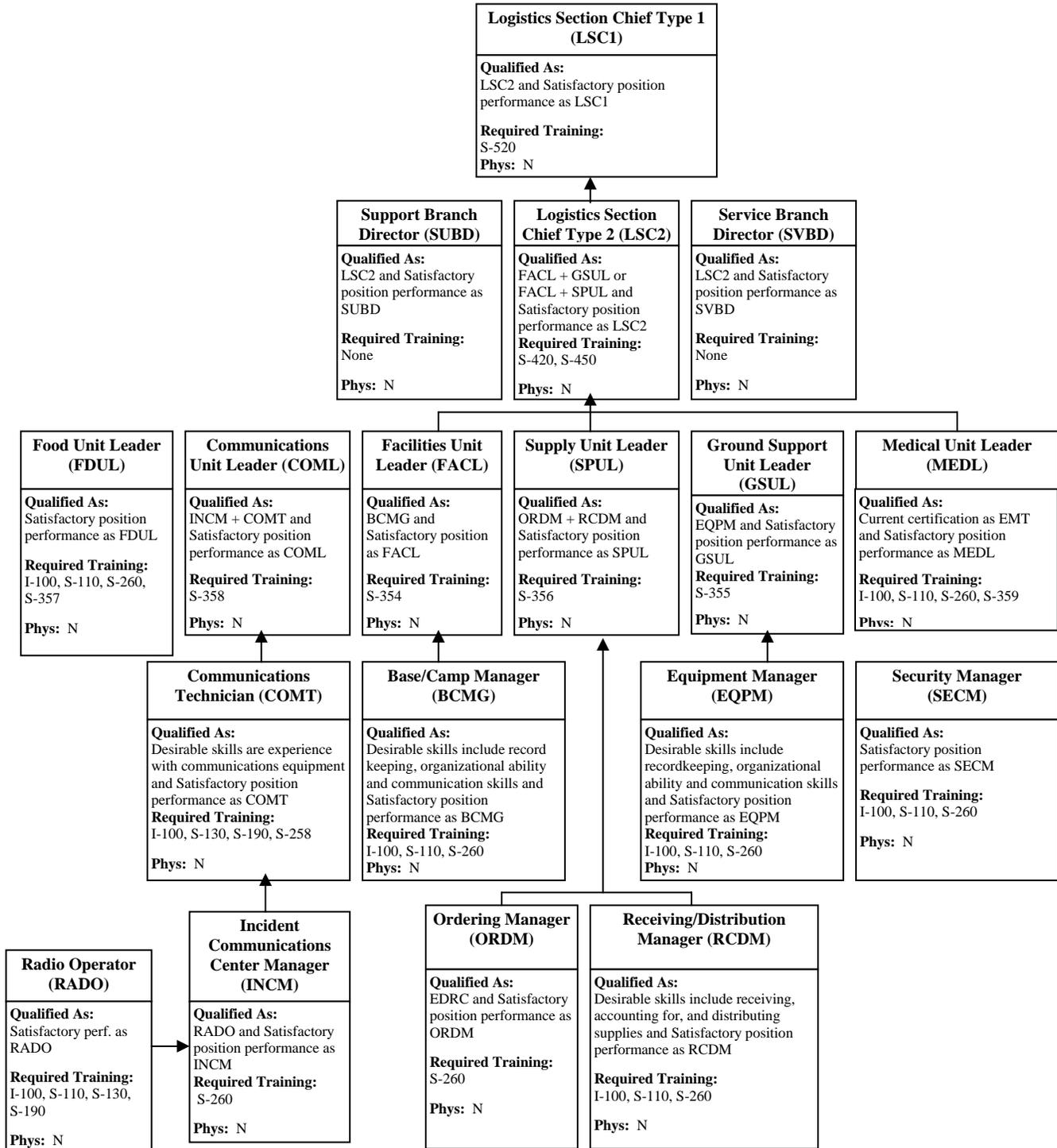
PLANNING SECTION



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11.1 - Exhibit 07

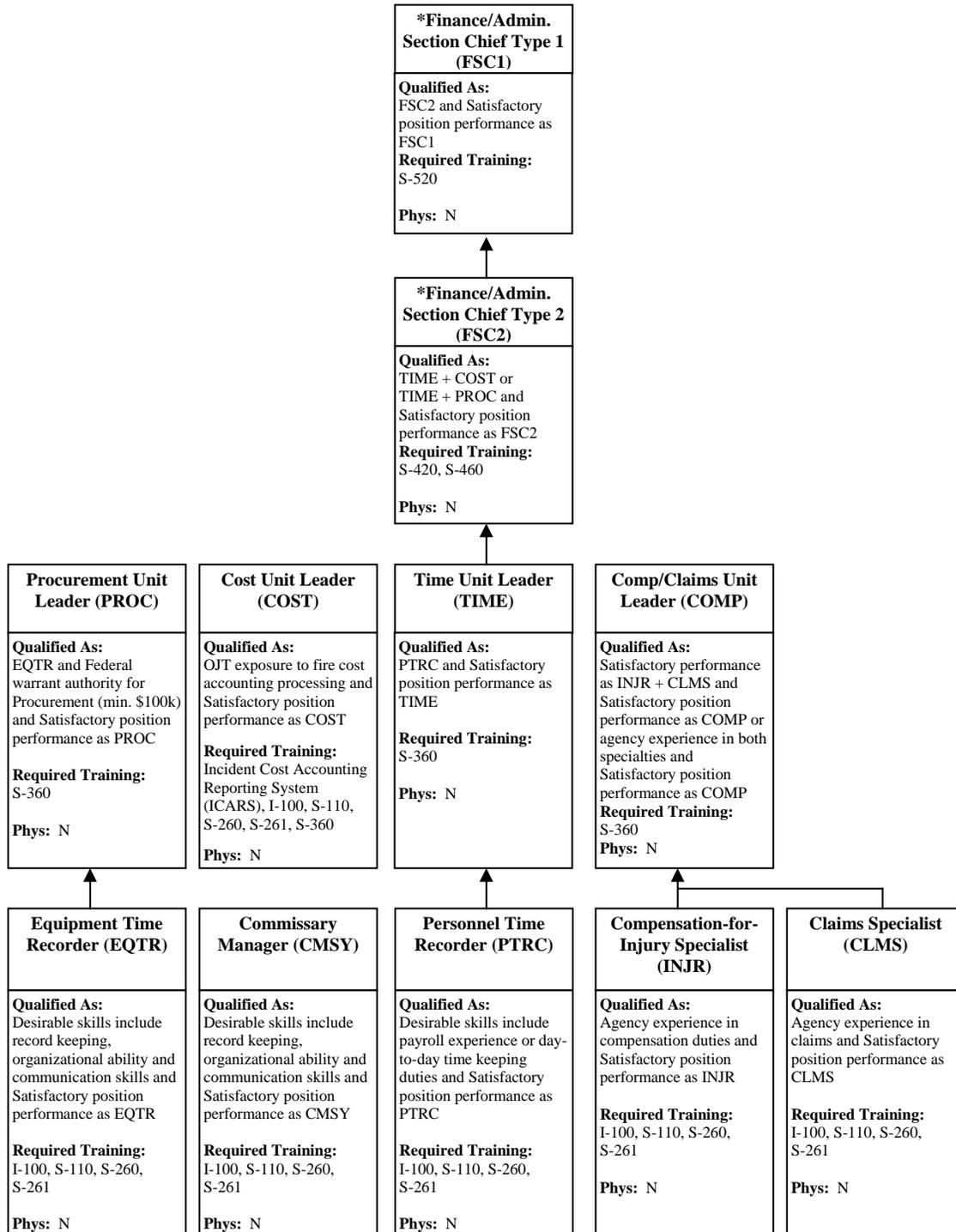
LOGISTICS SECTION



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11.1 - Exhibit 08

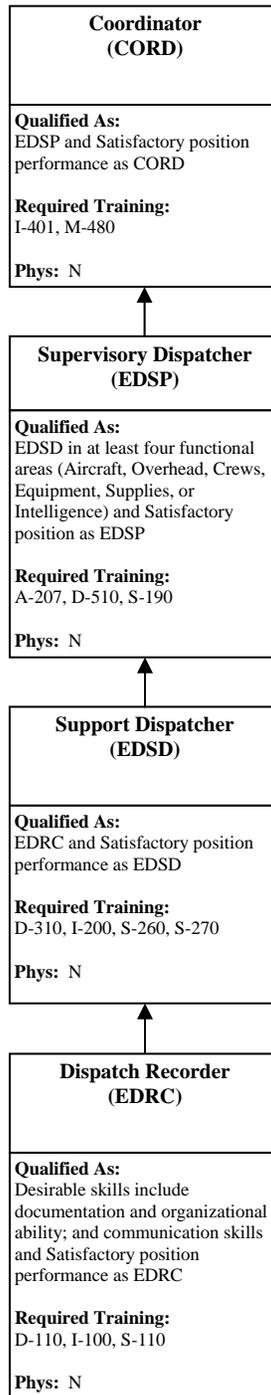
FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION



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11.1 - Exhibit 09

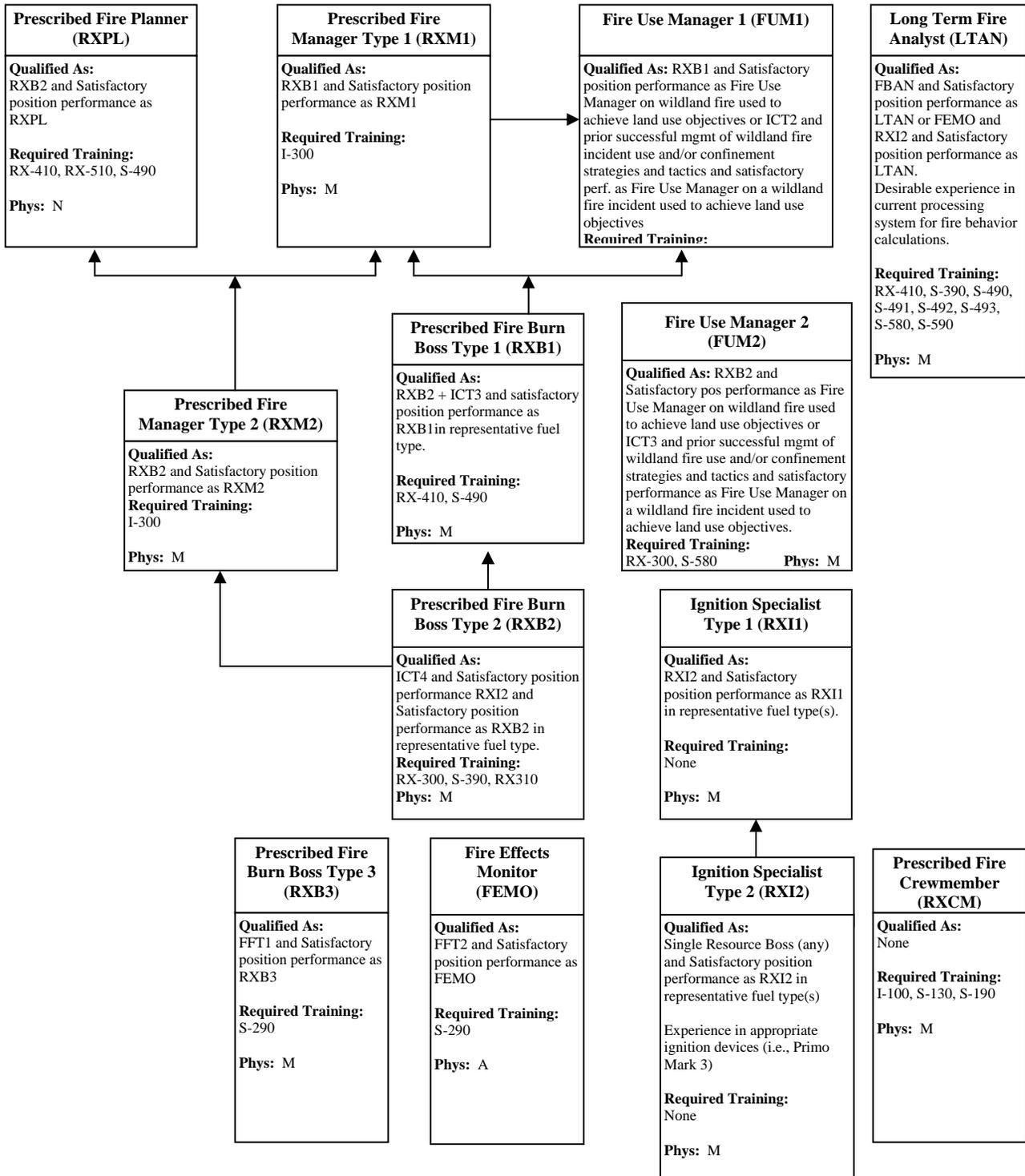
EXPANDED DISPATCH



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11.1 - Exhibit 10

PRESCRIBED FIRE USE



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**12 - WILDLAND AND PRESCRIBED FIRE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM GUIDE,
PMS 310-1**

The Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, produced by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), provides national minimum requirements for wildland firefighting personnel qualified to perform fire suppression and fire use related jobs (FSM 5108). The qualifications in PMS 310-1 are the minimums for any organization or agency sending personnel outside their areas of jurisdiction to ensure each person has met experience, training, and physical fitness guidelines.

Each agency has the latitude to supplement the position qualification requirements with more specific skill levels and to describe additional levels of positions to meet agency needs. FSH 5109.17 is the controlling document with respect to all fire and aviation management qualifications for Forest Service employees. On all assignments, the qualifications in FSH 5109.17 are the standards that must be met by Forest Service employees.

12.04 - Responsibility

1. Regional Foresters have the authority to supplement the fire and aviation management qualifications requirements only to comply with State or local law. Examples include requirements related to bloodborne pathogens, first responder, and hazardous materials requirements.

For prescribed fire qualifications, physical fitness requirements may be increased through a job hazard analysis (JHA).

2. Regional Directors of Fire and Aviation Management may make exceptions to the NWCG instructor training requirements as provided in chapter 30 of this Handbook.

3. Forest Supervisors do not have authority to supplement this Handbook.