




United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington DC 20240

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INFORMATION MEMO

To: Solicitor
Inspector General
Bureau and Office Heads

Attn: Senior Executive Emergency Management Council
Bureau and Office Emergency Coordinators

From: Director, Office of Emergency Management
/s/ Lisa A. Branum 

Subject: Removing Fitness level for Boat Operator Less than 25 Feet Length (BTOP) during the 2017 Hurricane Season

I. INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior Incident Positions Qualification Guide (IPQG) establishes minimum standards for agency personnel who mobilize to assist with non-wildland fire incident response. The minimum standards include education, training, skills, knowledge, experience and physical fitness the Department has determined are needed to effectively and safely respond to a wide variety of incident types.

A significant amount of the Department's certified boat operators BTOP were mobilized in response to Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Harvey mobilization has created a critical gap in fully qualified boat operators across the Department for response to Hurricane Irma.

II. BACKGROUND

When establishing the IPQG the DOI Office of Emergency Management (OEM) determined a Moderate fitness level is appropriate to cover the diversity of incident types to which motorboat operators would respond. We have determined the essential functions and primary duties of motor boat operators during response to Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma (e.g., emergency responder transport, equipment transport, and general motorboat operation) may not require moderate physical exertion. The IPQG currently lists the following requirements for boat operators for craft less than 25 feet.

Boat Operator Less Than 25 Feet Length (BTOP)REQUIRED TRAINING

EMI: Introduction to the ICS, ICS-100 (IS-100.b)

EMI: NIMS, An Introduction (IS-700.a)

Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) (SAF4102) or equivalent

Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) refresher (RT MOCC) (Quinquennial)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE

Agency established

PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIRED Moderate

III. DECISION

The DOI Office of Emergency Management in coordination with the DOI Office of Occupational Safety and Health is temporarily waiving the “Moderate” fitness requirement from the BTOP qualification during the 2017 hurricane response season (August 25, 2017 through November 15, 2017).

During this time there will be no fitness requirement for BTOP’s

DOI will reanalyze the essential functions and duties required of motorboat operators responding to incidents following these incidents and will update the IPQG fitness requirements accordingly.

Supervisors maintain the management responsibility to ensure that responding personnel meet training and experience requirements along with general physical readiness for incident response before making them available to assist with any hurricane response.

Questions concerning this action should be directed to Jason Steinmetz Emergency Management Specialist, OEM at: Jason.Steinmetz@ios.doi.gov