



Bureau of Indian Affairs–National Interagency Fire Center
Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management
Burned Area Emergency Response
Team member Position Description –



Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams are interdisciplinary teams composed of resource specialists who determine the need for, prescribe, and sometimes implement emergency treatments to minimize threats to life or property or to stabilize and prevent further unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources resulting from the effects of wildfire.

Based on the assessments written by Team resource specialists, treatment recommendations are made to affected tribes and agencies for the protection of human life, health and safety, critical cultural & natural resources, and infrastructure.

Team Member Position Descriptions

- **Team Leader:** Coordinates the operation of a BAER Team; interacts with Tribal/Agency Administrator and Incident Management staff to facilitate resource assessment by team members; coordinates activities with the agencies involved and the public; and coordinates the development of a BAER plan. Leader position has previously served on a BAER team as a specialist. (401, 025, any specialist series)
- **Deputy Team Leader** (if required): Coordinates the air and ground resource assessments of the specialists, provides logistical support for the team and coordinates the team's day-to-day activities with the Incident Management Team (Operations and Plans) and coordinates the initial implementation of emergency stabilization treatments. Deputy leader position has previously served on a BAER team as a specialist. (401, 025, any specialist series)
- **Forester:** Assesses, inventories and maps tree hazards and tree mortality. Identifies regeneration and seeding forestry areas. Coordinates hazard tree felling operations. May identify potential salvage. (460)
- **Botanist (Vegetation Specialist):** Determines T&E species at risk; estimates vegetative recovery; develops seeding mixtures; assesses range and range improvement impacts, including loss of AUM's; develops weed control measures and monitoring guidelines. May initiate seeding operations for emergency stabilization. (454 or 430)
- **Hydrologist, Geologist and/or Soil Scientist:** Conducts burn severity inventory; assesses hydrologic conditions in response to a fire; identifies values at risk; projects potential threats to life, property and critical resources; develops watershed stabilization recommendations; develops structure protection treatments; and determines threats to water quality. (1301 or 1315)
- **Wildlife Biologist:** Assesses impacts of fire to threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; initiates Section 7 consultation; identifies monitoring protocols; and coordinates with seeding mixtures. (486)

- **Archeologist/Cultural Resource Specialist:** Surveys sites impacted by suppression and potential rehab activities; surveys documented sites within the fire perimeter; documents assessments; makes recommendations to protect sites; prepares compliance documentation for Section 106; and initiates consultation with the SHPO/THPO. (0193)
- **Environmental Protection Specialist:** Reviews compliance documentation of the tribe/agency; coordinates development, review, and timely submission of specifications and assessments for the BAER Plan; and develops NEPA documentation/recommendations for proposed treatments. (0028)
- **Documentation Specialist:** Coordinates the digital entry of the various parts of the BAER Plan; develops and enters the necessary graphics and photo documentation for the plan; and assists the other team members with documentation issues; produces camera-ready copy of BAER Plan for production; provides BAER Plan digital disks to the Agency and Team Leader; prepares the format for the close-out presentation; and prepares the incident documentation files for transfer to the tribe/agency. (any specialist series)
- **Geographic Information Specialist:** Develops baseline map of fire area; gathers mapped data from team members or other sources; conducts GIS analysis of resources/impacts, etc. for team members, produces camera-ready maps for the BAER Plan; produces treatment and presentation maps. (150, 1370)
- **Information Technology:** Serves as the team's technical support for computers, GPS, printers; assembles the team's local wireless network and maintains connections; when used - assembles the servers/networks for the team; maintains and upgrades any necessary software; coordinates with the Team Leader for any replacement parts and/or repairs of equipment; and maintains the inventory of the team's electronic equipment. (2210)

Red Card Qualifications

Fireline qualifications are required for uncontained fires and National BAER team members. BIA tribal, agency, and regional BAER teams do not require red cards, but preference is given to BAER team members with red cards. Uncontained wildland fire field work requires an escort for non-red carded personnel. It is encouraged that BAER team members get red carded, when possible. **Contact your local Fire Management Officer (FMO) for more information on Fire Courses, Annual Firefighter Refresher, Work Capacity Test schedules & times, and your local dispatching procedures (ROSS).**

- Current red carded BAER team members must do the annual Fireline Safety refresher (RT-130) and the light work capacity test.
- New BAER team members need to complete the following courses for a red card:
 - I-100 – Intro to ICS <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses.html>
 - S-130 – Firefighter Training <http://training.nwcg.gov/blended.html>
 - S-190 – Intro to Wildfire Behavior <http://training.nwcg.gov/courses.html>
 - IS-700 –Intro to NIMS <https://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS700a.asp>
 - One day Fireline Field day (or basic wildland fire school)