



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

National Interagency Fire Center

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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#009-2013

To: NWCG Committee Chairs, Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG)
Chairs, Geographic Area Training Representatives Chair, National IC/AC Council
Chair

From: NWCG Chair 

Date: September 23, 2013

Subject: Evolving Incident Management Progress Report

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is continuing to move forward with the Evolving Incident Management (EIM) project. Here are some highlights of recent activity.

On June 19, 2013, the NWCG Executive Board agreed that moving to three levels of interagency wildland fire response: Initial Attack, Extended Attack, and Complex, best represent the categories of response for which we need to plan and organize. As part of this transition, State and Federally sponsored Type 1 (IMT1) and Type 2 (IMT2) Wildland Fire Incident Management Teams (IMTs) will evolve into “Complex IMTs” utilizing current IMT1 standards as their guiding principles.

A transition plan for evolving towards Complex IMTs is being developed. The conversion process from Type 2 IMTs to “Complex” is also under development. A suite of options will be proposed with the Geographic Areas having input into which additional training and experience may be needed by team members to become qualified as Complex. A multi-year transition is expected to take place.

Meanwhile progress continues with Complex IMT governance and mobilization. IMT distribution, mobilization, and standard operating procedures are being developed. The EIM project has recommended a reduction in federally sponsored IMTs, moving from the current 53 IMTs to 40 IMTs with State sponsored IMTs assisting with national surge capacity. Geographic Areas (GAs) were recently surveyed to determine current IMT operating procedures and to determine the number of IMTs that could be filled under a variety of scenarios. In addition, a task team has been looking at fire statistics, team mobilization, and assignment records from 1999 – 2012. The task team is analyzing each geographic area independently based on survey results, peak fire assignment periods throughout the year, and numbers of simultaneous IMT assignments.

A forthcoming recommended distribution of IMTs across GAs will consider each GA's capacity and ability to sponsor IMTs, as well as GA's fire occurrence where a T1 or T2 IMT was assigned. With a pathway charted towards developing Complex IMTs, work will continue on outlining IMT composition, including standardizing IMT positions within a team, trainee's numbers and management, team membership, and term limits.

Recognizing that the current workforce management and succession planning for wildfire incident management is not sustainable, the NWCG Executive Board initiated the EIM project to develop a new organizational model for incident management. For more information on Evolving Incident Management, please go to our Web site at:
<http://www.nwcg.gov/imosp/index.htm>.

cc: NWCG Executive Board
NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU)
Budget Advisory Unit (BAU) Chair
Rod Bloms, OWFC Program Analyst