



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#001-2012

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

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: January 10, 2012

Subject: NWCG's Role in Support, Coordination, and All-Hazards Response by Wildland Fire Agencies

The all-hazards environment encompasses a broad spectrum of threats and hazards, both natural and human-caused, including wildland fires. While the primary focus of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is the safe and efficient management of resources for wildland fire incidents, it is also recognized that these same resources respond to other types of all-hazards incidents at the national, regional, and local level. The wildland fire discipline and NWCG are inextricably linked to and continue to support the national effort for the development of a common National Incident Management System (NIMS).

As the response to all-hazards becomes increasingly interdisciplinary and interagency, there is a need to understand and define the intent and responsibility of NWCG during such events. The National Response Framework (NRF)/NIMS Committee was tasked by the NWCG Executive Board to develop an all-hazards intent document. The resulting NWCG All-Hazards Intent Document defines NWCG's role in the preparedness for, coordination of, and support to all-hazards incidents. It is based on the premise that the NIMS is the foundation of all incident response organizations, and that NWCG principles, procedures, and publications will comply with and support NIMS.

The NWCG All-Hazards Intent Document will be published in PMS 900: NWCG Operating Principles and Guidelines, and referenced in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES-2724), or Red Book.

Attachment A: NWCG All-Hazards Intent Document

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

NWCG All-Hazards Intent Document

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General All-Hazards Guidelines for NWCG:

- The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the foundation of all response. NWCG principles, procedures, and publications will comply with and support NIMS. NWCG expects that all local, State, and Federal response agencies and organizations will comply with NIMS.
- NWCG uses the NIMS definition of All-Hazards, which includes wildland fire. This definition is:
All-Hazards: Describing an incident, natural or manmade, that warrants action to protect life, property, environment, and public health or safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or economic activities.
- NWCG recognizes FEMA's role in overseeing the development, implementation, and maintenance of NIMS, which includes the Incident Command System (ICS) and its components (forms, core competencies, training, qualifications and standards, etc.).
- NWCG accepts the components of NIMS and will develop an endorsement process and additional qualifications requirements for positions having specific wildland fire application.
- NWCG recognizes and supports the use of position-specific qualifications from other NIMS compliant disciplines (law enforcement, structure fire, hazmat, etc.)
- NWCG supports the ongoing development and maintenance of wildland fire systems to be adaptable for all-hazards response.
- NWCG expects that all wildland fire personnel engaged in all-hazards response, whether at the national, regional or local level will base actions on both NWCG and agency policies, standards, doctrine, and procedures.
- NWCG member agencies ensure all personnel responding to all-hazards incidents are properly trained, equipped, and qualified for their assigned position.
- NWCG encourages all wildland fire agencies and personnel to receive appropriate preparedness training, focusing on general knowledge of all-hazards response, disaster characteristics, and the effects from these events on citizens and responders.
- NWCG encourages all wildland fire agencies and personnel to consider appropriate risk mitigation measures (e.g. vaccinations, personal protective equipment, etc.) prior to responding to all-hazards incidents.
- NWCG coordinates with member agencies to ensure accountability of wildland fire personnel during all-hazards response.