



National Interagency Fire Center

3838 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

February 14, 2005

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs
From: National Multi Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Incident Management Team Size

This memo supersedes and replaces the December 17, 2004 memo from the National Multi Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) to the Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs regarding Incident Management Team size.

The NMAC recently discussed concerns regarding the December 17, 2004 memo with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The NWCG concurred that the team size/configuration standard in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NIMG) is the current NWCG standard. Furthermore, they agreed to task the Incident Operations Standards Working Team (IOSWT) to review the standard with consideration to Agency Administrator expectations and recommend any necessary changes. Any identified changes would be effective in calendar year 2006.

Background – Over the past several years the number of team members on Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams (IMTs) has increased significantly. In some cases, Type 1 and 2 IMTs have mobilized with 80 to 110 people. This far exceeds the team size and configuration approved by the NWCG and published in the NIMG. Per the NIMG, standard team configurations are:

Short Team (Command/General Staff) – total of 10 positions
Long Team – additional 17 positions
Trainees – maximum of 6 positions
Total number of positions – maximum of 33

In 2000 the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) tasked the IOSWT to evaluate the configuration of IMTs. Based on the recommendations in the IOSWT's final report, the NWCG decision was not to change the team size standard.

Decision – This issue was discussed with the Geographic Area Coordinating Group Representatives at the 2004 NMAC – GMAC meeting in Boise. The decision from both groups is to strictly adhere to direction in the NIMG with the following key points:

- This decision applies to national mobilization. Geographic Areas may allow additional team members at their discretion for internal assignments, with respect to meeting Interagency Fire Program Management Standards (IFPM), Consent Decree, or other management objectives.
- Agency Administrators after consultation with the Incident Commander may authorize additional positions to be immediately ordered by the requesting unit to meet up with the IMT upon arrival at the incident.
- Additional positions will be ordered as individual overhead requests in order to mobilize the closest available resource. Name requests should be rare and will only be accepted for highly specialized positions, to meet specific agency objectives, or when overhead positions become difficult to fill.

This decision will promote cost containment and at the same time, more of our personnel will be available for assignment opportunities. Your support and cooperation is appreciated.

/s/ Don Artley
Chair, NMAC