



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

**National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705**

April 13, 2004

To: NWCG Members; Chairs-Working Teams and Advisory Groups
From: Chair, NWCG /s/ J. L. Stires
Subject: Media Access Guidelines

In January 2004, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) tasked the NWCG with preparing guidelines for media access on wildland fires. Don Smurthwaite, BLM External Affairs and Rose Davis, Forest Service Public Affairs at NIFC coordinated with the IOST and SHWT to produce the guidelines. Comments from field Information Officers and media/press specialists were also considered.

The guidelines were accepted by the NWCG Executive Committee in late January 2004, and were approved by WFLC on March 19, 2004.

The attached media guidelines will be used starting immediately. Also attached are the guidelines for media access in California, which by statute differs from other states. The goal of the guidelines is to provide a consistent approach to media access on wildfires from team to team, and from state to state.

Please insure that this information is made available to your fire management personnel.

Attachments

cc: Chairs, Geographic Area Coordinating Groups