July 7, 2014

Mr. Dan Smith, Chair
National Wildfire Coordinating Group
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to share some concerns the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has with development of the concept of Evolving Incident Management (EIM) being done by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

EIM is a concept the IAFC believes is essential for moving forward incident-management team development. The IAFC also recognizes that some parts of EIM are controversial and may take more time and effort to develop and to gain acceptance of it by all of the partners. Our concern is that all work on EIM has stopped as a result of those controversial items. There are several other areas that are not controversial and have support that we would like to see work continue on.

The IAFC would like to see work continue on the EIM initiatives listed below. The IAFC believes that suspending work on these items is not in the best interest of the fire service and work should continue. The initiatives are:

- Analyze current development pathways for Type 1 and Type 2 Command and General Staff (C&GS) positions and recommend ways to eliminate or reduce redundancies and/or barriers that will increase speed-to-competency.

- Formalize the development of qualification position standards for Type 3 C&GS positions to increase capacity for extended attack incidents, provide a mechanism to nationally mobilize Type 3 single resource positions, and for non-fire line positions allow for cross-credentialing with FEMA All-Hazard and DOI-All Hazard qualifications.

- Continue to work with the National Coordination System Council (NCSC) and GACG-ACs to explore opportunities to improve IMT mobilization and rotation efficiencies.

- Continue efforts to work with the Incident Commander / Area Commander Council (ICACC) to validate IMT composition, size, membership and ways to manage trainee development.

- Continue efforts to move forward with plans to increase Area Command Team capacity in 2014 and evaluate development pathways for future Area Command positions.
Through our representative on the NWCG Executive Board, we are committed to support this development effort and hope that work can continue on the items listed above.

If you have any questions, please contact Will G. May, Wildland Fire Program Coordinator, at 352-494-4312.

Regards,

Chief William R. Metcalf, EFO, CFO, FIFireE
President and Chairman of the Board

Cc: Sean Cross, NWCG Manager