MEMORANDUM

TO: Dan Smith, National Wildfire Coordinating Group Chair
FROM: Bob Harrington, NASF Fire Committee Chair
DATE: May 27, 2014
SUBJECT: NASF Direction on Evolving Incident Management

In the last few months there have been a lot of discussions among senior leadership within the DOI Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), USDA Forest Service, and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) proposing a pause or redirection to the implementation of Evolving Incident Management (EIM).

Since then members of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and Fire Management Board (FMB) have met and discussed this issue with the Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC) and the chair of NASF Fire Committee. The NASF Fire Committee met recently and agreed to provide the following direction to NWCG on EIM.

Some of the EIM recommendations appear to be out of alignment with Geographic Area Coordinating Group Advisory Councils (GACG-AC), Forest Service and DOI Senior Fire Leadership, and State Foresters.

However, it is important to note that OWF and Forest Service FAM directors and the NASF chair have agreed to use this opportunity to re-engage with agency leadership and have not directed NWCG to discontinue efforts to work on key EIM recommendations which are supported by field organizations.

The NASF Fire Committee recognizes that NWCG acknowledges these concerns and, over the next few months, will validate a course of action and make adjustments as interagency leadership provides updated guidance and direction.

The NASF Fire Committee provided guidance that further efforts to develop the implementation procedures for the following key recommendations be suspended until further direction from agency and partner leadership can be established.

1. Recommendation that we will have one type of IMT, and all IMTs will be Type 1
2. Recommendation to eliminate Type 2 IMT qualifications
3. Recommendation to scale down to 40 Type 1 IMTs
4. Recommendation that NICC will manage the IMT rotation and mobilization at Planning Level 3 and higher

The NASF Fire Committee agrees with many EIM recommendations which do have good support with positive encouragement from partners and stakeholders to continue efforts. The NASF Fire Committee would like for NWCG to continue efforts to analyze and propose implementation procedures for the following work for agency vetting:

- 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. Until further direction is received, Type 2 C&GS qualification standards will remain in effect in the PMS 310-1 Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide.

- 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-fireline 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. This effort will be expanded to include Type 2 IMTs as well as Type 1.
- Continue efforts to move forward with plans to increase Area Command Team capacity in 2014, and evaluate development pathways for future Area Command positions.

NWCG should continue to seek solutions and better engage all partners in this complex project. Collaboration with stakeholders has been, and will continue to be, an important component of Evolving Incident Management. We need to establish clear and concise methods of communication with line officers, geographic coordinating groups and within the interagency wildland fire governance structure. The NASF Fire Committee would like to see timelines or benchmarks established to review progress and reevaluate components of EIM.

Lastly, NWCG should continue efforts to engage with agency and partner line officers to analyze EIM recommendations to reduce or eliminate barriers and disincentives to participation on incident management teams. Many of these recommendations fall under individual agency purview to implement, and involvement with agency line officers is a critical component in this effort.

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