



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

## Memorandum

Reference: NWCG #001-2008

To: NWCG Executive Board, Sub-Group Chairs, and Geographic Area Coordinating Groups

From: NWCG Chair *Brian McManis*

Date: March 20, 2008

Subject: NWCG/NIMS Coordination

As discussed at the January NWCG Meeting, it is vitally important for the NWCG community to be participating effectively in the development and implementation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Incident Management System (NIMS). DHS has the authority to develop and oversee the national response structure, and NWCG member agencies need to be in compliance. Without close collaboration, NIMS development could result in significant additional workload for NWCG members, and inconsistencies in policy and process between the all hazard and wildland fire communities that could be detrimental to our operations and capability. Furthermore, Federal funding for our State and local partners may be withheld if they are not NIMS compliant.

As a community, we want to engage with DHS in the development of their NIMS standards to assure that we are in compliance and to share some of our lessons learned and operational models. At our January Meeting, we received briefings from a number of Working Teams that are already involved in coordination with NIMS. A list of NIMS coordination efforts was collected, as well as NWCG or member agency involvement in those efforts.

Attached is the Status Report that was developed as a result of the January Meeting, providing a synopsis of ongoing NWCG/NIMS coordination. As a result of the meeting, a new NWCG committee was identified to coordinate NIMS collaboration efforts (NRF/NIMS Committee). The next step in the process is to compile a more thorough listing of ongoing NIMS coordination efforts at all levels in order to formulate a more comprehensive plan for moving forward. We want to generate and maintain an accurate list of ongoing coordination efforts with NIMS in order to eliminate duplication and identify gaps that need to be addressed. The Status Report will be maintained by the NRF/NIMS Committee as it gets established, and monthly updates will be provided to the NWCG

Executive Board. I ask that you provide any pertinent information concerning national NIMS coordination efforts involving you or members of your group. Please add to or correct the attached table, and e-mail it to NWCG Executive Secretary (Bonnie Bradshaw) at [NWCG\\_Executive\\_Secretary@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:NWCG_Executive_Secretary@nifc.blm.gov) by **April 4, 2008**. We will jointly maintain the Status Report with the NIMS Resource Management Branch, and it will be posted on the NWCG website. In that manner, we will provide easy access to ongoing efforts to assist in facilitating this process.

Please contact Chad Fisher, NRF/NIMS Interim Committee Chair at (208) 387-5986, or [chad\\_fisher@fws.gov](mailto:chad_fisher@fws.gov) if you have questions.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

Attachment

**Status Report**  
**NWCG Coordination with NIMS Activities**  
**March 17, 2008**

<i>NIMS Resource Management Branch Projects</i>	<i>Details, Relation to Wildland Fire</i>	<i>Current NWCG Point of Contact or reasons to engage</i>
<p><b>Project Support Team (PST)</b></p> <p>NIMS Manager: Kyle Blackman, Resource Management Branch Chief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination purpose only; not a major decision making group.</li> <li>• Consists of group chairpersons from each of the credentialing working groups and subject matter experts. On occasion, includes others from other NIMS-related activities, such as USET.</li> <li>• Meets quarterly to review and discuss activities of the resource coordination branch and related credentialing and resource typing working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> </ul>
<p><b>Incident Mgt Working Group</b></p> <p>Chair: Steve Gage, USFS            Deputy Chair: Bob Anderson            SME: Geoff Wilford            NIMS Liaison: Vanessa Burnett</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstituted group 12/07.</li> <li>• Originally formed to manage command and general staff and general ICS overhead credentialing positions. Currently working on a range of incident management tools, primarily in support of ICS but also mutual aid.</li> <li>• May serve to coordinate between subject matter groups on common issues, such as “technical specialists,”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> <li>• Geoff Wilford (as contractor)</li> </ul>
<p><b>NIMS Strategic Group</b>  <b>Mike Kaminski</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set long-term vision for NIMS Implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy Sachs</li> <li>• Neal Hitchcock</li> </ul>

<b>Discipline Work Groups</b>		
<b>Animal Health Working Group</b> Chair: Sebastian Heath, DHS SME: N/A NIMS Liaison: Joseph Hesbrook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Working Group</b> Chair: Peg Trimble SME: Kathy Robinson NIMS Liaison: (staff change)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential value added by NWCG participation</li> <li>• Might provide opportunity to resolve interstate EMT standards issues</li> </ul>
<b>Fire / Hazmat Working Group</b> Chair: Kim Zagaris, CA OES SME: Jim Strickland NIMS Liaison: Mike Kaminski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In process of being reconstituted.</li> <li>• Resource typing including engines, water tenders, crews and possible teams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Hanson MTDC</li> <li>• IOSWT</li> </ul>
<b>Law Enforcement Working Group</b> Chair: Craig Meyer, Denver Sherriff's Office SME: Thomas Maioli NIMS Liaison: Joseph Hesbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not currently active; in process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role for agency LE</li> </ul>
<b>Mass Care Working Group</b> (New group in startup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In early stages of creation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
<b>Medical and Public Health Working Group</b> Chair: Ann Kniebel, HHS SMEs: Kathy Robinson, Cammi Marti NIMS Liaison: Pam Bramlette		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA unless this is where EMT issue may be resolved</li> </ul>
<b>Public Works Working Group</b> Chair: Mark McCain SME: Diane Linderman NIMS Liaison: Tara Kelly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important</li> <li>• Typing of heavy equipment</li> <li>• GIS standards</li> </ul>

<p><b>Search and Rescue Working Group</b>  Chair:  SME: Jim Strickland  NIMS Liaison: Tom Smith</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially important</li> <li>• NPS ESF role nested in this WG</li> </ul>
<b>Other Resource Management Branch Activities</b>		
<p><b>Cooperative Agreement &amp; Funding for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)</b>  POC: Kyle Blackman (COTR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support expansion and improvement of EMAC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important</li> <li>• May affect mobilization and ordering of fire resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cooperative Agreement &amp; Funding for International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) – Interstate Mutual Aid System</b>  IAFC Emergency Management Committee (EMC)  NIMS Project Officer: Mike Kaminski</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For support of the IAFC EMC, a permanently standing group, in support of interstate mutual aid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> <li>• Same importance as EMAC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cooperative Agreement &amp; Funding for IAFC – Intrastate Mutual</b>  NIMS Project Officer: Mike Kaminski</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports development of intrastate mutual aid programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> <li>• Same importance as EMAC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cooperative Agreement &amp; Funding for United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)</b>  NIMS Project Officer: Joseph Hesbrook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop mutual aid for the 25 member tribes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impact to DOI programs?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resource Management Standard Working Group (RMSWG)</b>  NIMS Project Officer: Mike Kaminski</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation planned for Pat O’Bannon, California OES, per Kaminski and Kim Zagaris to cover logistics/mobilization interests for wildland fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> <li>• Important – sets standards for incident management</li> <li>• Will planned participation be adequate to meet NWCG needs?</li> </ul>
<p><b>NIMS ICS Core Competencies Change Management Board</b>  NIMS Liaison: Tara Kelly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative began in NIMS Training Branch.</li> <li>• Chairs from the discipline working groups.</li> <li>• Manages proposed changes to all-hazard &amp; C&amp;GS competencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vince Mazzier</li> </ul>

<p><b>FEMA Credentialing Working Group</b> NIMS Liaisons: Kyle Blackman, Pam Bramlette, Tara Kelly (COTR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group established to meet requirements in Public Law 110-53 to produce a standard on credentialing and typing of personnel and written guidance for implementation. Due 8/8/2008.</li> <li>• Coordinates with ANSI group, below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical</li> <li>• May influence 310-1 and IQCS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coordination with ANSI credentialing efforts</b> NIMS Managers: Kyle Blackman, Pam Bramlette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In support of FEMA Credentialing Working Group efforts above.</li> <li>• ANSI group funded by DHS Science &amp; Technology (S&amp;T) Directorate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same importance as Credentialing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Training development coordination</b> EMI USFA TWT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent standard setting and development of coursework based on common learning objectives</li> <li>• Coordinated training over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TWT – Logan Lee</li> <li>• NWCG TDU – Deb Epps</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research and Development, Science and Technology</b> DHS/FEMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of new technology that will help in the WUI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WUIWT – Alan Dozier</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnership with DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection (OIP), Partnership Development Office (PDO)</b> NIMS Liaisons: Vanessa Burnett, Mike Kaminski</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to work with critical infrastructure owners and operators through the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Sector Partnership Model to understand and work within the NIMS.</li> <li>• IMSID Membership (Burnett) on Emergency Services Sector (ESS) Government Coordinating Council and related efforts developing the ESS program.</li> <li>• IMSID Membership (Burnett) on Commercial Facilities Government Coordinating Council. Includes coordination with NASCAR and US Sports Leagues on best practices, evacuation planning, etc.</li> <li>• Partnership activities include involvement of critical infrastructure owners and operators in NIMS Credentialing Working Group and ANSI effort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important</li> <li>• Role not yet clear but likely to include such things as utility corridors across public land</li> </ul>

<p><b>Investigative and Intelligence (I &amp; I) Working Group</b> Lead: Al Fluman, NIMS Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of tools and guidance related to I &amp; I, including law enforcement and public health activities.</li> <li>• Steve Gage is supporting this project. Effort initiated in part by NYPD and based on work developed there.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Gage</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Information Officer Activities</b> <b>*This is in / via a cooperative agreement with eastern Kentucky University</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published NIMS “Basic Guidance for Public Information Officers”</li> </ul> <p>Development/revision of public information and public affairs training.</p>	
<p><b>FY 07 Supplemental Projects (\$2.5 million)</b> NIMS Contract Management: Pam Bramblette</p>	<p>Coordination and support of EMAC efforts including the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credentialing: develop a nationwide system to allow “access” to a disaster for the private sector, including coordination within the National Capital Region.</li> <li>• Working Group for program development of NIMS Communications and Information Management Component (NIMS Liaison: Vanessa Burnett).</li> <li>• Private Sector and NGO Development of a Model Mutual Aid Agreement template.</li> <li>• FEMA and U.S. Coast Guard Partnership for Model NIMS Implementation in Oil, Gas and Maritime Sectors.</li> <li>• JFO/disaster team badging.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential resources in future</li> </ul>