

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP FISCAL YEAR 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed in 1976 by an interagency agreement signed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. In 1993 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, specifically the U.S. Fire Administration, was added by agreement.

The Governing body of NWCG consists of representatives of Federal agencies and State partners:

Department of Agriculture:

Fire and Aviation Management, Forest Service
Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research, Forest Service

Department of the Interior:

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs
National Park Service
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

U.S. Fire Administration

National Association of State Foresters has both an eastern and western State representative to ensure optimal use of all State personnel during emergencies.

The National Fire Protection Association and Fire Control Officers Group (Australia/New Zealand) are Associate members of the organization.

Late in calendar year 2000 NWCG published its Bylaws and Operating Principles document. This document provides direction and council to NWCG Working Teams and Advisory Groups for budget and general operating principles.

Jerry Williams, Forest Service was added to the membership of NWCG this year to replace retiring Jose Cruz.

Don Artley, State Forester for Montana is the Chair of NWCG. The detailed products of the NWCG are produced by the Working Teams and Advisory Groups. The remainder of this report is a listing of the major projects or products which are the Working Teams or Advisory Groups. Additional information on any issue can be obtained by contacting the NWCG Chair, the Executive Secretary or the Chair of the particular Working Team or Advisory Group.

FIRE DANGER RATING WORKING TEAM

Chartered a WIMS re-engineering Task Group. This interagency group led by Russ Gripp (R5-FS) was used by the Forest Service and their contractor as a feedback mechanism/reality check to the field user during the development and release of Phase 1 of WIMS reengineering. Phase 1 is the conversion of

WIMS to a web-interface environment and it was completed and released in May 2001. WIMS on the web can be accessed at <http://famweb.nwcg.gov/wims>.

\$8,250 was applied to this project in 2001. The task group will continue to serve through Phases 2 and 3. Travel funds for this purpose are included in the 2002 and 2003 budget proposal but will need to be added this Fall to the 2004.

In cooperation with the FWWT, new weather station standards have been adopted by NWCG. Given these standards, including data transmission, the FS will retire the Hub in November 2005. The Hub is a FS-supported short-term phone line method of gathering fire weather data from non-satellite telemetry weather stations.

The FDWT provided technical expertise and support to the development of S-491 Intermediate NFDRS. This course is expected to be completed in 2002. No FDWT funds were spent or are anticipated.

Provided guidance to the National Weather Service and fire agencies in the form of an issue paper on the numbering of fire weather forecast zones.

Provided information regarding 1) quality of RAWS weather data collected in the winter and 2) WIMS transmit times via FS RAWS Technotes.

Received approved Team charter, adopted a Team vision statement, and initiated development of Team operating plan.

Conducted 2 Team meetings, in October 2000 and June 2001. Both of these meetings explored cutting edge research that may be applied to the next generation NFDRS. The June meeting was held jointly with the Fire Weather Working Team. Also met with NWCG at their Feb. 2001 meeting. Meeting-related expenses are budgeted through 2004.

FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM

The Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT) experienced another very successful year of activity. The group met in Luray, VA in October, 2000 to review accomplishments, as well as make a presentation to the parent committee. The presentation before NWCG went very well and most of the information shown below was reported at that time.

The key successes this past year include:

- BDU implementation: The implementation plan for the switchover from nomex jeans to battle-dress utility (BDU) pants was started in June, 2000. This was a successful effort and the new pants are gaining wide field acceptance. There were some initial concerns in that there were not enough BDUs to meet the demand of all field units; however, by mid-July, 2001, things were progressing more smoothly. The National Interagency Support Cache will maintain the inventory of all old style jeans until it is not efficient to do so and then serviceable jeans will be made excess property. There should be about one more year of transition for this process.
- Quick connect: The Implementation Plan was completed and presented to NWCG at the June, 2001 meeting in Portland, OR. At that meeting it was decided to place the implementation of quick

connect on hold until the state foresters could reevaluate their acceptance of it. There has been a tremendous amount of controversy generated since the NWCG October, 2000 decision was made public. There have been over 20 Congressionals received by the federal agencies over this decision. It was placed on hold until the January, 2003 meeting. There is a field test on five units, including a county engine occurring this year to provide more information to the decision makers at the January meeting. However, it appears, based on conversations with the International Association of Fire Chiefs that the decision may in fact be delayed until January, 2003.

- Various publications were updated this year and reissued:
 1. Spark Arrestor Guide
 2. Phase I – Water Handling Guide is completed.
- A Joint Meeting is planned with the Canadian Fire Equipment Working Group (FEWG) hosting in the USA at Orlando, FL by JP Greene, State Rep and the USDA Forest Service. The agenda will include many joint ventures for the two groups to evaluate.
- A draft Gel Specification has been developed and is available for review throughout the US and Canada.
- The Anadromous fish strainer report is almost complete. We are looking at a standard strainer for water drafting operations which will meet Infish/PACfish requirements for screen size and depth.
- The poly-vinyl bag on the shelter was re-designed to better be able open it in crisis situations. We are in the process of developing an implementation plan for this in light of all new shelters possibly being available in 2003.

Upcoming dates of interest for the group include:

Joint FEWT/FEWCG meeting, Orlando, FL - September 24-27, 2001

FAM TDC Steering Committee - January 16-18, 2002

CNH Wildfire Meeting - October 24-25, 2001

BLM/GSA/FS Wilfire Conference - November 13, 2001

The State travel money has been expended to the 66% level and will be completely spent by November 30, 2001. The NFES meeting costs and the FEWT publication monies will be completely expended.

FIRE USE WORKING TEAM

Team Management (\$4,000 for 2 meetings) - Working Team business included two travel meetings: Missoula, Montana (November 7-8, 2000) and Denver, Colorado (June 5-7, 2001).

Team Web Presence (\$0) - The FUWT has a full presence on the NWCG Web Page including the team charter, membership, business (minutes and annual action plans, annual reports from FY 96 to present), and activities.

Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis (\$0) - The team began updating the 1995 NWCG Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide. Completion of a test version expected by the end of CY 01.

Fire Use Training Development

A task group developed a First Order Fire Effects Monitoring training course to provide first order fire effects training to address skills identified in the Fire Effects Monitor position task book and not provided in the Field Observer (S-244) training course (\$0). All activities were coordinated with TWT and IOSWT and adjustments in the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide are proposed for FY 02.

Advanced Fire Use Applications (S-580) was completed (\$4000).

Air Quality/Smoke Management Issues (\$0) - Agency comments were incorporated into the NWCG Smoke Management Guide update and PMS formatting arranged. Completion is expected in late CY 01.

FIRE WEATHER WORKING TEAM

The Fire Weather Working Team has no funded projects and uses the allocated budget only for State Member travel.

The FWWT met twice during 2001. Various fire weather issues were discussed. Most significant of these were reports from regional groups developing advanced weather modeling programs to assist with implementation of the newly revised National Fire Policy, specifically smoke management implications of that policy. The FWWT also finished the NFDRS Weather Station Standards. The standards have been submitted to the publication management staff.

The main focus of the FWWT this year has been the development of a new Fire Weather Interagency Agreement between the National Weather Service and the Fire Agencies. This agreement will set the framework for the development of several other FWWT products and procedures aimed at smoothing operational concerns between the agencies. Several interesting developments have occurred that have changed the timeline for accomplishing this task. The Department of the Interior was successful in securing positions and funding to develop a fire weather program management function at NIFC and the Geographic Area Coordination Centers. This program is under development and many specific questions remain to be answered. The Department of the Interior's newly appointed program manager has joined the Fire Weather Working Team to help integrate and coordinate efforts. Also, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group has re-assigned the task to develop the Fire Weather Interagency Agreement from the FWWT to a select working group at NIFC. This new group is under the leadership of the Vice Chair of NWCG. The FWWT is now waiting for the results of this working group's efforts.

INCIDENT BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING TEAM

Meetings were conducted in October 2000, February 2001, May 2001, Conference Calls in August and September 2001

Budget Applied: \$5,549.82

PROJECTS

Incident Base Automation

Submitted recommendation to NWCG at their October meeting on Incident Base Automation. NWCG approved short-term recommendation.

- Working Team developed Charter for Interagency Incident Automation Task Group
- Working Team identified Task Group Members
- Met with Task Group for transition and assignment
- Facilitated a survey to Incident Management Teams as to applications they may be using this season
- Receiving progress reports from Task Group

Budget Applied: \$3,205 (utilizing OF-288 revision funds and IBA Course funds)

Percent Accomplished: 60%

Carryover into FY 2002: YES

Incident Business Coordinator's Meeting

Attended, participated, and gave IBPWT progress report at this December 2000 meeting.

Incident Business Advisor Course

Continued sponsorship of course development. Work with Subject Matter Expert's. Final draft of the course released to SME's and working team during September. Test teaching of the course set for October 30-31, 2001, to be held in Boise and sponsored by the Great Basin.

Final revision expected to be released in spring of 2002. Will go forward at that time to work with the Training Working Team for review and adoption.

Budget Applied: \$500

Percent Accomplished: 80%

Carryover into FY2002: YES

IBPWT Strategic Budget and Goals

Developed and submitted WT budget and goals.

Completed December 2000.

Revised/Improved IBPWT Web Pages

Developing redesign of the working team's web page. Working towards presenting final version spring of 2002 with draft review at September meeting.

Budget Applied: \$0

Percent Accomplished: 20%

Carryover into FY2002: YES

Incident Business Guidelines Review

Responded to several issues raised from the field during 2000 season. In response to those the WT developed proposed guideline language changes for use by host units. Specific issues raised and memos issues were:

- Specialty Items purchase limitations (Memo dated June 5, 2001)
- Contractor Guidelines work rest and rest and recuperation (Memo dated June 5, 2001)
- Incident Behavior Common Responsibilities (Submitted by Sandy Tripp, Adopted and supported by WT, Memo dated June 5, 2001)

Expending funds for recreation and entertainment type of things was also raised as a concern. The WT has researched through regulations and laws and has determined there is limited authority to spend funds on these items, with some agencies unable to do so. The WT will send an updated paragraph for the Incident Business Guidelines by the end of September with guidance for Agency Administrators to sue relative to their unit and agency.

Budget Applied: \$0

Percent Accomplished: 100%

Interaction Guide Development

Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) and Prevention/Education Team operations were submitted to the working team as an issue. The working team sponsored the development and implementation of interaction guides for use with both types of resources.

- Agency Administrator and Module Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFF's) Liaison Officer's Interaction Guide produced (Memo dated June 18, 2001)
- Host Unit and Prevention/Education Team Interaction Guide produced (Memo dated July 5, 2001)

Budget Applied: \$0

Percent Accomplished: 100%

Miscellaneous Memos

The working team was approached on several occasions to provide input and/or support to other issues. The working team responded to those with memos to the appropriate audience. The memos addressed the following:

- Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management – request to post to the Internet and review and update. Memo submitted to the Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) requesting they take the lead on this document (Memo dated May 4, 2001)
- 14 Day Policy – request from MAC Group for input on implementation of the change in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide relative to the National Preparedness Level 5, back-to-back 14 day assignments and minimum of four days home prior to receiving another assignment (Memo dated April 6, 2001)

- Transporting Wildland Firefighters – working team contacted by SHWT to facilitate the field utilizing the newly developed “Focus on the Mission Transporting Wildland Firefighters” video (Memo dated July 11, 2001)
- 14 Day Assignment clarification request from the field (Memo dated July 18, 2001)

Budget Applied: \$0

Percent Accomplished: 100%

INCIDENT OPERATIONS STANDARDS WORKING TEAM

The 2001 year was a busy year for the Incident Operations Working Team on several different fronts. Several new issues from the 2000 fire season were brought forward to the IOSWT to research and make recommendations on. A brief list of the issues and projects worked on by the team is as follows:

- Crew Typing, completed
- 410-1 revision, 75% complete, project funds not spent
- Supported national All-Risk ICS review
- Supported Fire Line Leadership proposal in conjunction with TWT
- Participated in NFPA 1051 committee
- Participated in IQS committee
- Joint meeting with TWT
- Initiated active relationship with IMS Consortium
- Reviewed and recommended renewal of 14 day policy with minor changes
- Extensive discussion and communication on Team Configuration Issue, 95% complete, needs to be presented to parent group.
- Reviewed and made recommendation on 10% trainee proposal in conjunction with TWT
- Reviewed Fire Investigator position for inclusion into 310-1, decision pending, based on further work by Fire Investigation Working Team.
- Reviewed and responded to Structure Protection Specialist position recommendation by Rocky Mountain Area.
- Participated in Canadian ICS committee
- Configuration of flowchart to determine process for identifying positions as technical specialist, ICS, Wildland Fire, or Fire Use in 310-1.
- Review and recommendation of HECM PTB proposal.
- Interaction with IHOP/IHOG to bring 310-1 qualifications and IHOG qualifications closer together. (ongoing)
- Review and recommendation on “Turn Down” proposal.
- Assisted in development of USCG Incident Mgmt. Handbook
- Assisted the National ICS 209 Committee with development of automated ICS 209

INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORKING TEAM

FY 2001 BUDGET

- Budget: \$108,000
- Spent: \$108,000
- Redirected: \$0
- Proposed Carryover: \$0
- Interagency IRM Support Tools

- Budget: \$50,000
- Spent: \$50,000
- Redirected: \$0
- Proposed Carryover: \$0
- Update IRM Strategy Plan
 - Budget: \$50,000
 - Spent: \$0
 - Redirected to GTG: \$5,000
 - Proposed Carryover: \$45,000
 - % of project completed: 0%
- NWCG Website support
 - Budget: \$5,000
 - Spent: \$1,500
 - Redirected: \$0
 - Proposed Carryover: \$3,500
- CASE Tool Support
 - Budget: \$5,000
 - Spent: \$5,000
 - Redirected: \$0
 - Proposed Carryover: \$0
- State Travel
 - Budget: \$13,000
 - Spent: \$13,000
 - Redirected: \$0
 - Proposed Carryover: \$0

Accomplishments

- ***Administration and Management***
 - PMO scope and charter approved by IRMWT and signed by NWCG
 - Developed PMO Strategic Plan and FY2001 Annual Work Plan
 - IRMWT Strategic Planning
 - Identified strategic initiatives, goals, and objectives for the IRMWT
 - Identified Relationships between IRMWT and PMO, NWCG, Agency IRM, and NWCG Projects
 - Developed FY2002 PMO Annual Work Plan
 - Developed and tracked FY2001 PMO budget and procurement plan
 - PMO Office consolidated at one location (BLM, Idaho State Office building)
 - PMO Personnel Development/Training
 - Cost Xpert training (4 attendees)
 - DAMA Int'l. Data Management Conference (2 attendees)
 - FTS Conference (2 attendees)
 - GSA-FTS2001 Conference (1 attendee)
 - Building a PMO training (3 attendees)
 - Strategic Planning (4 attendees)
 - EEO, Diversity
 - Conduct and Ethics
- ***Products Developed***

- Project Charter Guidelines and Template
- Project Status Report format and guidelines
- (Draft) Project Plan Guidelines
- (Draft) White Paper Guidelines and Templates
- (Draft) Document Review Policy and Process

- ***Program Development***
 - Data Architecture
 - NWCG Data Administration Working Group (DAWG) Concept Paper
 - (Draft) NWCG Data Stewardship Program (guidelines & procedures) paper
 - Applications Architecture
 - Wildland Fire Applications Inventory Concept Paper
 - “Default” application standards policy statement
 - Project Management
 - Identified and selected a standard project cost estimating tool (CostXpert)
 - Repository
 - Selected and procured document repository software

- ***NWCG***
 - NWCG IRM Program Manager
 - Attended NWCG meetings
 - Identified IRM activities and initiatives for feedback to the IRMWT
 - Assessment of NFP summary reporting activity
 - NWCG WWW/Internet domain (WWW.NWCG.GOV)
 - Technical and administrative contact responsibilities transferred to the PMO Repository Manager

- ***Support of Projects and Initiatives***
 - Project Status Reporting
 - Distributed Project Status Report format & guidelines
 - Requested status reports from known projects & initiatives
 - IQCS Project
 - Reviewed and reported on the Information Study Report
 - Helped draft and reviewed the Design Phase Project Charter
 - Reviewed and reported on the draft procurement document (Request for Quotation – RFQ, including SOW)
 - Recorded and transcribed the record of the Vendor Conference on the RFQ
 - PMO member on Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee
 - IRMWT Advisor on Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee
 - Attended DOI IRM & HRM briefings
 - Reviewed and helped draft the SOW system interface amendment
 - ROSS Project
 - Attended Core Team and other meetings
 - Reviewed correspondence and documentation
 - Reviewed SOW for ROSS support organization
 - Communicated on a near daily basis with ROSS Project Manager and implementation team
 - Incident Business Practices Working Team (IBPWT) Task Group

- Attended meetings and helped draft charter for IBP Incident Base Task Group
 - Presented PMO orientation
 - Developed IRM Initiatives at Incidents paper
- GeoMAC Project
 - Provided project charter guidelines and helped draft inter-agency charter for FY2001 Prototype Project
- RERAP Project
 - Provided project charter guidelines
- Radio Narrowband
 - Prepared White Paper for NWCG
- National Fire Plan Reporting Project
 - Attended meetings and developed observations regarding dual Forest Service (FS) / Department of the Interior (DOI) efforts. Encouraged and developed contacts between FS & DOI
 - Provided composite dictionary of wildland fire terminology
- Fire Planning Budget Project
 - Provided project charter guidelines and project organization guidance
- Fuels Applications
 - Provided initial fire applications inventory to Dan Keller in support of fuels applications research and analysis
- WIMS Reengineering
 - Attended meeting in Kansas City
- Network
 - Informed through agency members and PMO regarding progress and activities
- Satellite Data Communications
 - Looking at potential
- Lightning Contract
 - Briefed on planned activities
- NWCG Website
 - Transfer DNS to PMO
 - Webmaster attended a course on Web Accessibility Standards
 - Surveyed Working Teams to identify immediate problems and corrected many of those identified
 - Met with Education Working Team and identified need to develop a project charter to determine requirements and design for the future NWCG Website
- Monthly IRM Coordination Meetings at NIFC
 - Initiated monthly coordination meetings at NIFC to keep informed of emerging issues
- Briefed on 30 Meter/Landfire
- ***Interaction with Working Teams***
 - Information Resource Management Working Team
 - Attended all meetings
 - Established partnership and collegial relationship through NWCG Charter
 - Incident Business Practices Working Team
 - Attended IBPWT meeting
 - Presented IRM Initiatives at Incidents paper
 - Presented PMO orientation
 - Fire Danger & Fire Weather Working Teams

- o Attended joint meeting
- o Presented PMO orientation
- **Wildland Fire** Education Working Team
 - o Attended meeting
 - o Presented PMO orientation
 - o Identified NWCG Web Page issues
- Training, IOS, Fire Equipment, National Coordinators, & IBPWT
 - o Jointly involved with PMO in standardizing Unit Identifiers

Other Meetings Attended

- DOI IT Conference
- USFS NIST Meeting
- NPS Fire Mgmt Conference
- National Coordinator's Meeting
- CISCO Meeting
- Departmental meetings, DOI and USDA through NITC and NBC
- Alaska Fire Service Orientation

Proposed additional projects for FY 2002

- Initiate Formal NWCG Website Design Project
 - o Identify Business Lead
 - o Develop Charter
 - o Identify Project Team (SME's and Technical)
 - o Identify Funding Requirements
- Initiate Fire Budget Planning System Project
 - o Identify Business Lead
 - o Identify Sponsoring Agency
 - o Develop Charter
 - o Identify Project Team (SME's and Technical)
 - o Identify Funding Requirements

RADIO NARROWBAND ADVISORY GROUP

Budget

\$1500 for State representatives travel.

Accomplishments

Completed the first initial testing of the EFJ Johnson handheld. This was delayed from the 200 season due to the redesign of the AA clamshell battery. The redesign clamshell is currently being examined and most likely will be on the new Department of the Interior (DOI) contract.

Tested the Daniels P25 VHF repeater/UHF link and UHF repeater system in parallel with an National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC) analog system during the 2001 Rainbow gathering. This duplicated the NIRSC systems commonly used on fires and incidents.

Tested the effects of antenna polarization which included the King EPH radio. The reason for testing the King is the widespread use of chest packs for holding the radio. In addition, a test was conducted to

determine the effects of interchanging the antennas among radio models from different manufacturers and the effects of using telescoping antennas versus the small rubber coated coiled antennas.

The NIRSC purchased 250 P25 Motorola XTS3000 UHF radios and 200 P25 Racal VHF radio for the NIRSC. Some of these radios were utilized on wildfires this season in the analog mode.

The Radio Narrowband Advisory Group will meet the week on October 29th in Mesa, Arizona in conjunction with the DOI and Forest Service National Telecommunication meeting.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WORKING TEAM

PMS is the only working Team that we have accepted a calendar year report on accomplishments. This report coincides with the annual inventory at the Great Basin Warehouse in Boise, Idaho.

PMS has no established budget and manages the system of publications for all agencies through the Great Basin Warehouse. They have established a Home Page that is receiving fairly heavy public and agency use. They will be communicating with other Working Teams and Advisory Groups about making more publications available on this web site. The PMS Home Page address is:
<http://fwspceaa.nifc.r9.fws.gov/~olson/pms/pms.html>.

SAFETY AND HEALTH WORKING TEAM

The following is the NWCG's Safety and health Working Team's Annual Report for fiscal year 2001. It provides an overview as to the accomplishments of the Working Team's budget and Action Items.

The total FY 2001 budget was \$90,000. The funds were assigned and expedited for the following projects.

Number	Project	Budget Amount	Description	Status/Lead
1	Work/Rest Issues	\$15,000 (All used)	Field research: assignment length, operational period length, R&R among various crews	On-going/FS-MTDC
2	Energy, nutrition and health	\$25,000 (All used)	Field research: Type I & II crews (inc. measures of immune fx, oxidative stress, nutrition/intake, energy expenditure, body composition-pre, during and post fire season	On-going/FS-MTDC
3	Fitness & work capacity	\$10,000 (All used)	Develop, evaluate, and implement medical standards, monitor work capacity test admin; study need for graduated standards for Type I & II crews.	On-going/FS-MTDC
4	<i>Safety Gram</i>	\$5,000 (All used)	Continued and expanded to include "lessons Learned"	Completed & On-going SAFE initiative
5	Leadership and Decision Making	\$20,000	Training Development	On-going SAFE initiative
6	State Travel	\$15,000 (All used)	Cover costs of 3 state reps: W, S & E	Completed & On-going
	TOTAL	\$ 90,000		

The activities and accomplishments of the Safety and Health Working Team involved team members, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) staff, members of the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST) at NIFC, Steve Holder, S.A.F.E. Initiative program manager and Janelle Smith, NIFC External Affairs.

The Safety & Health Working Team took action on 22 items received during the past fiscal year.

13 projects on the Team's Action Log were successfully completed or made significant progress on many issues. Some of the notable actions include:

- **Safety Alert:** A new electronic messaging alert system was conceived, developed and established to quickly ensure safety related items and breaking news could be directed to and from the key safety personnel through appropriate federal and state wildland agencies. This notification system has three levels of alert: **Safety Warning**- a safety hazard that poses an imminent treat to life or property, **Safety Advisory**-an advisory on safety information that isn't related to imminent or potential threats of injury, and **Safety Bulletin**- factual confirmation of a serious accident, incident or fatality.

- **SHWT Web Site Development:** A web site was developed and posted on the web at the NWCG parent group site. The SHWT site provides visitors with access to: Reference Material; Team Activities; Safety Alerts; Entrapment and Fatalities Information; and various links.
- **Wildland Fire Safety CD-ROM:** A contract has been submitted to “Americanize” the Canadian *Wildland Fire Safety on the Fireline* CD-ROM interactive training program. The visuals will change to US firefighters and locations, and some case studies will change. The CD is targeted to volunteer firefighters, new wildland firefighters and as a review for seasoned firefighters.
- **FY2000-2001 Safety Gram:** The past year’s report was compiled and disseminated. The *Safety Gram* is the most comprehensive listing of US fatalities and entrapments on wildland fires. It summarizes wildland and prescribed fire entrapments, injuries and fatalities for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States. In CY2000 there were twenty-two (22) fatalities and three (3) shelter deployments reported to NWCG. The *Safety Gram* is also available on the S&H WT website.
- **Safety Flagging:** After researching the problem of the existing color scheme for “escape route” flagging, MTDC has recommended that the color for “escape route” be changed to hot pink with “escape route” in black lettering printed on it. Further, that the SHWT recommended that this be placed into national cache system; a memo requesting a Jan. 1, 2002 implementation date was sent to the Fire Equipment Working Team.
- **Work/Rest Issues:** MTDC continues to review research on prolonged work, including long shifts, extended assignments (up to twenty one days), and factors that influence health and performance of wildland firefighters.
- **Energy, Nutrition and Health:** MTDC has contracted with the University of Montana to conduct laboratory and field studies on immune function during prolonged work, in training and on the fireline.
- **Work Capacity Tests and Medical Examination:** MTDC tracking federal, state and other fire agency implementation. Investigating the “arduous” category for non-line positions; analyzing wildland firefighter fatalities to make recommendations to prevent them in future; and assisting in field trials of medical standards for wildland firefighters.

Membership

For the second year in a row, the SHWT has had considerable change among its’ members. Wini Sorenson, FS has departed and has been replaced by Michelle Ryerson-Grett; Mike Bescoter, F&WS has also left the Team and has been replaced by John Gould; and Dick Mangan retired and has been replaced by Chuck Whitlock for FS-MTDC

TRAINING WORKING TEAM

There was a significant amount of turnover on the Training Working Team (TWT) during FY01. Bob Murgallis, National Fire Academy, and Don Johnson, Michigan Department of Natural Resources,

became members of the TWT. Sue Riedman replaced Deb Epps as Logistics. Dave Engle, NWCG Development Unit, retired and Deb Epps replaced him as an advisor. Rich Wands, NARTC Director, replaced John Roberts as an advisor. Larry Hamilton replaced Harry Croft as NWCG Liaison to the Team. Hunter Wistrand, Aviation Committee Chair retired; the future of this committee has yet to be decided. Dan Francis, FIRESCOPE Representative, will retire after our September meeting and his replacement has not been named.

Specific Accomplishments

The TWT continues to meet annually with the geographic area training representatives and the IOS Working Team. These meetings have proven helpful in resolving issues and greatly increasing the communication information flow. There are no plans to deviate from this schedule.

For the NWCG Development Unit the fiscal year started out with a back log of courses to be completed due to turnover and under staffing within the Unit. Fifteen courses were completed this fiscal year and will all be available in the Publications Management System (PMS) by this fall (including S-216, S-258, S-355, S-356, S-357, S-358, S-360, S-403, S-404, S-440, S-450, S-460, S-470, M-410, and J-158). There are four courses that were to be completed in FY01, but will be carried forward into FY02, they are S-215 Wildland Fire in the Urban Interface, S-400 Incident Commander, S-420 Command & General Staff, and S-491 NFDRS. Upon completion of these courses we should be back on schedule.

The development cycle was started for S-110 Basic Fire Suppression Orientation, S-130 Firefighter Training, S-212 Wildfire Power Saws, S-270 Basic Air Operations, S-445 Training Specialist and D-311 Initial Attack Dispatcher. These courses are scheduled for completion by the end of FY02.

Beginning this fiscal year, all courses put on the shelf are also available in PDF format via CD ROMs that can be ordered through PMS. All fifteen courses completed this year have associated CD ROMs. In addition, the Field Managers Course Guide has been updated and now available electronically through the NWCG PMS web page.

For further information on course status see the NWCG Development Unit web site under www.fire.blm.gov/training/main.html.

FY01 marked the final year that the BIA funding for Development Unit positions will be provided through NWCG; in February NWCG approved a plan to staff the Unit by funding from the individual agencies. The BIA went from four positions to their current two positions in the Unit, one project leader and one editorial assistant. Other new positions in the unit include a project leader and an editorial assistant funded by the USFS, a project leader funded by the NPS and an editorial assistant funded by the FWS. Upon hiring of these individuals the Unit will be fully staffed. The BLM is hiring a Distance Learning position under the Fire Training Group that will assist in the process of bringing several NWCG courses into an online learning environment.

The Team, in partnership with IOS & Fire Behavior Working Teams, will complete a review of the LTAN needs, qualification standards, and delivery systems by February 2002.

The TWT received recommendations on the leadership curriculum and related issues from the Leadership Task Group in February. The TWT is now in the process of organizing an interagency

committee to create an implementation plan. The \$40,000 in the FY01 budget for Leadership Course Development will need to be carried over into FY02.

WILDLAND FIRE EDUCATION WORKING TEAM

The final report for the Arson Grant program was completed and delivered to the parent group in 2001. The report was completed at no cost to the budget.

The Electronic Bibliography update and team web page re-design has been contracted and the project is on-going. The funds, \$12,500, have been obligated for completion in FY 2002.

The brochure project, *Wildland Fire in America*, is 50% complete. The final draft is complete and is now ready for printing. The printing costs, \$35,000, will need to be available to spend in FY 2002.

The *Communicator Guide - Wildland Fire* was completed and is available in both a printed format through the Center of Excellence and electronically on the web. This project provides comprehensive reference information about wildland fire for educators and communicators.

The *Fire Role and Use Message* projects is currently being developed and will go out to bid in October/November. The funds for this project, \$60,000, will be needed in FY 2002 to complete the project.

The WFEWT experienced the loss of several members of the team and has been working below capacity for most of FY 2001. The orientation of new members is on-going. Two team positions remain unfilled, one from the state the other from the FWS.

WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATION WORKING TEAM

The Fire Investigation Working Team was chartered in May of 2000 to address issues related to the field of wildland fire investigation. Currently, the primary project for this group is the development of professional standards for the certification of fire investigators, comparable to those already existing for structural fire investigators. The final product will include the professional standard which will set training and experience requirements for three levels of investigator, (Type III, II and I). The standard will be accompanied by written proficiency exams, Position Task Books and a specific training course for each level.

The working team has met twice during FY 2001 and has accomplished the following on this project:

FY 2001 accomplishments to date:

- Developed draft of standard.
- Distributed draft to field for peer level, technical review and comment.
- Reviewed comments and edited final draft. (10/2000)
- Developed drafts of Type I, II and III investigator Position Task Books. (11/2000)
- Met with IOS and Training Working Teams for review of draft materials. (1/2001)

- Finalized draft PTBs and Section L standard, based on input from IOS and Training Working Teams. (3/2001)
- Begin development of training curriculum. Prepared draft outlines for the revision of P-151 and the development of P-251 and P-351 (5/2001)
- Met with NWCG parent group and presented draft standard and PTBs (6/2001)
- We will plan on attending the NWCG meeting in Maine where we expect a decision from the parent group on the draft material.
- Our next working team meeting is scheduled for 11/14-15, 2001, in Boise.

Our only expenditures to date have been travel expenses for three of our state agency representatives. (I am still waiting for the actual cost from Shelley, but it is approximately \$6,000)

Our plan at this time is to begin immediate work on the revision of the P-151 training package. This will incur development and publication costs. Any money that we do not spend at this time, we would like to see held over and applied to our next year's budget.

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE WORKING TEAM

The Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team is not directly funded by NWCG but is a recognized WT. Firewise workshops and the development of the Firewise concepts is their predominant project. Following is a report of their activities.

The assessment phase of the Firewise Communities/USA program is complete and a report has been issued. Seven pilot communities were visited by the Firewise team members during April and May, where they met with community representatives and evaluated local wildland/urban interface fire conditions. Based on these visits, assessment reports were prepared and delivered to each community at the end of June. Each community is now determining how to respond to the assessment by creating its own Firewise plan. Follow-up visits designed to monitor local progress began in late August and will continue into September. A final visit will be paid to each pilot area in September or October to assist in creating a Firewise implementation schedule.

The project is being coordinated by Judith Leraas Cook who states, "The Firewise Communities/USA Program is a follow-up to the Firewise Communities Workshop series. Incorporating a flexible template that can be tailored to ensure maximum wildland fire protection and education for the communities, this Firewise module enlists the commitment and cooperation of community leaders, fire staff and single-family homeowners. Local solutions to specific fire protection challenges become possible by employing the Firewise Communities/USA methodology."

One of the Firewise pilots is Briargate which is a soon-to-be constructed planned community located in the western suburbs of Ormond Beach, Florida. Firewise inclusions in the construction include underground utilities, paved roads, hydrants and planned setbacks within the construction. During the 1998 wildfires near Daytona, this area was evacuated for over three and one-half days. The assessment mentioned large areas of pine forests, palmetto growth and gallberry vegetation—all capable of sustaining a fast-moving and intense fire during wildfire season. Pine trees have been thinned in selected sections of the development; vines have been reduced, as has the height of the underbrush. All this has served to lower the fuel hazard level.

Firewise Communities/USA provides information that encourages communities to balance sustainable ecological lifestyles with effective wildfire protection. It provides an effective management approach for preserving wildland living aesthetics. Hyde Park II and III are established residential communities located on the edge of Santa Fe, New Mexico. They contain a

mature Pinon Pine and juniper canopy along with steep topography capable of producing what is known as a stand-replacement fire. The assessment process identified the need to thin the pinon juniper canopy. Properly thinning will not only mitigate the fire hazard, but also better maintain a healthy ecosystem during time of drought. Hyde Park II and III's assessment also recommended replacing flammable roofs with non-flammable alternatives replacing common plastic skylights with tempered glass, and encouraging stucco exteriors—already a popular choice.

Timber Ridge is unique among the pilot areas because it is one of the few that contains overlapping ignition zones, meaning that one house's flammability will affect others should any ignitions occur during a wildfire. The assessment suggested thinning overgrown stands of pine, pinon juniper, gambel oak and manzanita. It noted that existing mountain mahogany and ceanothus burn less readily. Timber Ridge residents were encouraged to begin reducing fuels in their home ignition zones and to move then into the development's common areas and service easements. Non-flammable, deciduous trees were suggested for landscape plantings. Dead pine needles and other flammable vegetation were identified as another hazard. The Prescott area has been actively involved with the wildland/urban interface issue since 1990, when it created the Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission. Prescott was also the site of one of the year 2000 Firewise Communities Workshops.

Firewise Communities now has available to display two new portable exhibits for use at workshops, meetings, and conferences. The tabletop and floor exhibits bring attention to the Firewise Communities program and highlight our many stakeholders and partners by name and logo. They were debut at the NFPA's America's Fire Expo in Miami, FL in July and the Fire-Rescue International 2001 sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs in New Orleans, LA. Look for the exhibit at the next Firewise Communities Workshop to be held at Hidden Valley, PA September 24-26, 2001. The exhibits were designed by Absolute Imaging, www.absolut-imaging.com and manufactured by Skyline Displays & Services, www.skylinedisplays.com. All Firewise Communities /USA pilots are required to observed the following standards in order to retain Firewise recognition status:

- Sponsor a local Firewise task force
- Maintain a plan that identifies local solutions to the wildland/urban interface fire issue
- Invest \$2.00 annually per capita in local Firewise projects
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA day each spring dedicated to a Firewise project
- Submit an annual report documenting local achievements In the next update we will spotlight some of the other Firewise Communities/USA pilot areas including Frenchtown (Montana), Glendale (California), Orange County (Florida) and Sundance (Utah).

Firewise Communities Program Sponsors:

The National Firewise Communities Project is supported by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and their Wildland Urban Interface Working Team, consisting of the following organizations:

- FEMA-US Fire Administration
- National Association of Emergency Managers
- National Association of Fire Chiefs
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Association of State Foresters
- NFPA® International
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- USDI Fish & Wildlife Service

- USDI National Park Service

Stakeholder Groups:

The following is a list of national organizations and private companies, referred to as Stakeholders, which help steer the project and select workshop participants:

- American Forests
- American Institute of Architects
- American Planning Association
- American Red Cross
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- Community Associations Institute
- Congressional Fire Services Institute
- Environmental Systems Research Institute
- FEMA - Project Impact
- Institute for Business and Home Safety
- Insurance Services Office (ISO)
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Wildland Fire
- International Codes Council
- International Fire Marshal Association
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- National Association of County Officials
- National Association of Home Builders
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Emergency Management Association
- National Multi Housing Council
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Society of American Foresters
- Space Imaging
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Rural Utilities & Rural Development
- Western Fire Chiefs
- Wildland Firefighting Magazine™