



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#016-2010

To: NWCG Committee Chairs and Program Management Unit (PMU)

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Subject: Request to Review the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The purpose of this Memorandum is to initiate a review of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by NWCG committees.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Integration Center (NIC) will update the National Incident Management System (NIMS) during 2010. Public comments for this update will be solicited later this spring; however, NIC has asked NWCG to conduct a targeted review of the current NIMS document. The NWCG Executive Board believes you can provide valuable input that can be considered for inclusion in the update because of the wildland fire community's experience with the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS). The Executive Board has pledged our support to the NIC on this and other projects.

NIMS applies to fire agencies, as well as all others inside and outside the wildland fire community. NIMS is different than NIIMS:

- NIMS applies to all disciplines at all levels of government.
- All Federal agencies are required to comply with the requirements in the NIMS, and all State and local agencies must comply with NIMS requirements to receive Federal preparedness funds. In other words, NIMS affects all of us and all of our cooperators.
- This is an opportunity to bring wildland fire knowledge and experience to the non-fire disciplines. NIMS is only six years old; NIIMS has been around over 30 years.
- There may be opportunities for the wildland fire community to help build and shape NIMS requirements as NIMS evolves. "If we don't do it, someone else will," and we will have to live (and comply) with the results.

This review is an important collaborative effort between NIC and NWCG, and the Executive Board is counting on participation from all NWCG Committees. We are asking all committees to review the NIMS document with the following points in mind:

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Review of the National Incident
Management System (NIMS)

1. This is not intended to be a line by line detailed review.
2. FEMA is looking to us to provide advice and suggestions on how to make NIMS stronger.
3. Is there new or updated information or programs not included in the document that should be made part of it?
4. Is there confusing language?
5. In your review, consider impacts to wildland fire and to wildland fire agencies.

A form for comments and instructions on submitting the form can be found on the NRF/NIMS Committee webpage <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/nrf-nims/index.htm>.

All NWCG Committees should complete their review and provide feedback on the comment form and submit to the NRF/NIMS Committee Chair, Gordy Sachs at gsachs@fs.fed.us, **no later than Monday, May 3rd. Please advise your Branch Coordinator when your review has been completed.**

The NRF/NIMS Committee will review, consolidate, and compile them into a single document for review by the Executive Board and subsequent submission to the NIC.

Questions about the NIMS or the review can be directed to the NRF/NIMS Committee Chair, Gordy Sachs (gsachs@fs.fed.us), or any member of the NRF/NIMS Committee <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/nrf-nims/contacts.htm>.

cc: NWCG Executive Board
NWCG Branch Coordinators