

NWCG Program Updates

The following are not on the agenda for the NWCG Connections call and are meant to be read at your convenience. If you have any questions regarding any of the following topics, please reach out to your coordinator.

1. **NWCG Structure and Coordinator Changes:** The following changes are being made as a result of the NWCG Executive Board Command & General Staff Structure Tasking (TM-18-003):
 - Leadership Subcommittee has been elevated to a Committee
 - Operations and Training Committee will be transitioning to the Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) this summer; mission and objectives have changed and will be shared when final
 - IPSC is in the process of standing up a Command Subcommittee
 - Incident Logistics Subcommittee will move from under Equipment & Technology Committee to IPSC

Several changes were made to coordinators assigned to each Committee and associated subgroups. Current assignments are as follows (also listed on the online rosters):

- Data Management Committee (Paul Schlobohm)
- Fire Environment Committee (Paul Schlobohm)
- Smoke Committee (Paul Schlobohm)
- NIMS Integration Committee (Jeff Hughes)
- Equipment Technology Committee (Tim Blake)
- Incident Business Committee (Tim Blake)
- National Coordination System Committee (Tim Blake)
- National Interagency Aviation Committee (Tim Blake)
- Risk Management Committee (Tim Blake)
- Communication, Education & Prevention Committee (Deb Fleming)
- Fuels Management Committee (Deb Fleming)
- Incident Position & Standards Committee (Deb Fleming)
- Interagency Fire Planning Committee (Deb Fleming)
- Leadership Committee (Deb Fleming)
- Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (Deb Fleming)

2. **Accessibility Guidance:** The revised NWCG Guidance for Creating Accessible Electronic Documents is now posted, <https://www.nwcg.gov/notices>, under Accessibility. Creating and disseminating accessible products is a shared responsibility among all of us. With this guidance, users can set up Microsoft Office products with accessibility in mind from the start, which makes it easier to achieve compliance with Section 508 requirements. Contact Jesse Bender with any questions or concerns.
3. **Typing Standards:** NWCG is discussing a portal to hold all the personnel and equipment typing standards. Right now many of them are in the Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide, PMS 210, but some are contained in other documents. One consistent portal would allow the fields to be updated as necessary and include additional information beneficial to users. This topic will be a larger discussion item on a future agenda. Contact Jesse Bender with any questions.
4. **IT Capability Requirements Prioritization:** NWCG's role in the Wildland Fire Information and Technology program is to define and prioritize the requirements for capabilities provided by technology. Currently we display these IT Capability Requirements on our website: <https://www.nwcg.gov/wfit-guidance>. We have developed and this week the Executive Board has approved a process for prioritizing these IT Capability Requirements. A mock-up of how the information on our WFIT page will change (<https://www.nwcg.gov/wfit-guidance-draft>) includes a description of the process in the accordion header entitled: NWCG Process for IT Capability Requirements Prioritization. NWCG Coordinators will develop recommendations for decision to the Executive Board similar to our budget process. Prioritization processing will begin as soon as possible.
5. **FEMA's proposed National Incident Management System (NIMS) Coordination Group:** FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) is responsible for managing the implementation and administration of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NWCG maintains an ongoing relationship with NIC and provides technical advice, input on NIMS as it relates to wildland fire and other advisory input and collaboration. At a recent meeting, NIC detailed a plan to stand up a NIMS Coordination Group (based on associations with local, state, tribal, and territorial partners) that would serve as an overarching all-hazards incident management governance body organized like and operationally similar to NWCG.
 - a. The proposed mission of the NIMS Coordination Group is: "To provide national leadership to unify all incident management activities across all five mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery) and seven Community Lifelines to raise awareness, prevent wasteful duplication, and provide a means of constructively working together."

This information has been included as NWCG would be a potential member. If NWCG is included as a member, committees and subcommittees may see more engagement or

requests for information going forward. This group is still in the planning phase, so no hard decision about membership or level of engagement has been determined.

See *Concept Paper* on next page.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Coordination Group

Concept Paper

This paper presents a recommendation for standing up a “NIMS Coordination Group” whose mission will be to unify and coordinate all aspects of incident management across the Incident and Emergency Management community through collaboration with key associations and local, state, tribal, and territorial partners.

Strategic Context

FEMA is leading whole community efforts to build a culture of preparedness and ready the nation for catastrophic incidents. To achieve these goals, FEMA is working with partners across the nation to meet critical needs of every segment of society and within the seven Community Lifeline sectors. FEMA understands that our key partners seek to drive the Incident and Emergency Management community forward by taking a holistic, inclusive incident management coordination approach to complete these strategic goals, while focused on outcomes-based stabilization efforts,

A key element of this holistic approach is bringing a variety of voices and ideas to the table. The National Integration Center (NIC) understands that many of FEMA’s partner organizations serve as thought leaders across the field of resilience and disaster preparedness. However, individual efforts are uncoordinated, as the incident management field lacks a single forum to direct, discuss, and organize resource management efforts. For example, associations such as the National Wildland Fire Coordination Group (NWCG) and the All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association (AHIMTA) both serve as coordinating entities for personnel qualification systems, but currently lack a formalized way to share best practices and foster coordination, in an all hazards environment. At the same time, throughout the field there is a desire to raise awareness, better coordinate activities, and unify efforts to achieve common goals. As demonstrated by the wide-spread adoption of NIMS, the near universality of EMI training programs, and the early successes with the National Qualification System (NQS), Incident and Emergency Management organizations actively seek best practices and understand the value of awareness, standardization, and unity of effort.

To enable and operationalize this coordination, eliminate duplication of effort, and achieve maximum efficiency in resource management across the nation by incorporation of community sector lifelines, FEMA proposes the establishment of a NIMS Coordination Group to bring all stakeholders to the table and unify the advancement of incident management, all-hazards resource management, and mutual aid while quickly and effectively vetting and disseminating industry best practices.

Additionally, this coordination group advances the following goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 FEMA Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Build a Culture of Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective 1.3: Help people prepare for disasters - Objective 1.4: Better learn from past disasters, improve continuously, and innovate
Goal 2: Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives 2.1: Organize the “BEST” (Build, Empower, Sustain, and Train) scalable and capable incident workforce
Goal 3: Reduce the Complexity of FEMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective 3.3: Develop innovative systems and business processes that enable FEMA’s employees to rapidly and effectively deliver the agency’s mission

Proposed Effort Overview

Through engaging with key associations and local, state, tribal, and territorial partners, FEMA will explore the feasibility of creating an overarching all-hazards incident management governance body organized like and operationally similar to that of the NWCG.

NIMS Coordination Group

Proposed Mission: To provide national leadership to unify all incident management activities across all five mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery) and seven Community Lifelines to raise awareness, prevent wasteful duplication, and provide a means of constructively working together.

Proposed Vision: To maximize efficiency in all-hazards incident management.

Executive Board:

The executive board provides leadership, strategic direction, and managerial oversight over all aspects of NIMS Coordination Group management and operations. Membership will comprise of associations and organizations that operate with a nation-wide scope and focus on the practice of incident management, such as:

- FEMA NIC (Chair)
- AHIMTA
- NEMA
- IAEM
- NWCG
- BCEM

Additionally:

To ensure an operational point of view, the executive committee will also include rotating seats for individual local, state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions and non-governmental / private sector partner organizations (i.e., the American Water Works Association).

- An advisory board will advise the executive board on specific topics, depending on nation-wide and leadership-led priorities
- Within FEMA, the NIC will coordinate closely with the Field Operations Directorate (FOD), Office of Response and Recovery, National Training and Education Division (NTED), Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC), and other stakeholders across the Agency to ensure representation and coordination across the agency.

Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees:

As strategic direction flows through the executive board, standing and ad-hoc committees operationalize that strategy. Standing committees center around specific functions within all-hazards incident management and resource management, such as personnel qualification, training, mutual aid, and NIMS oversight. Ad-hoc committees form to drive solutions on specific issues, such as:

- Development of new position task books for NQS;
- Incident Management and Incident Support resource deployment decisions;
- Any exceptionally complex problems in the Lifelines and Future Planning lines of effort;
or
- Any issues in the Essential Elements of Information (EEI) in components of the Lifeline.

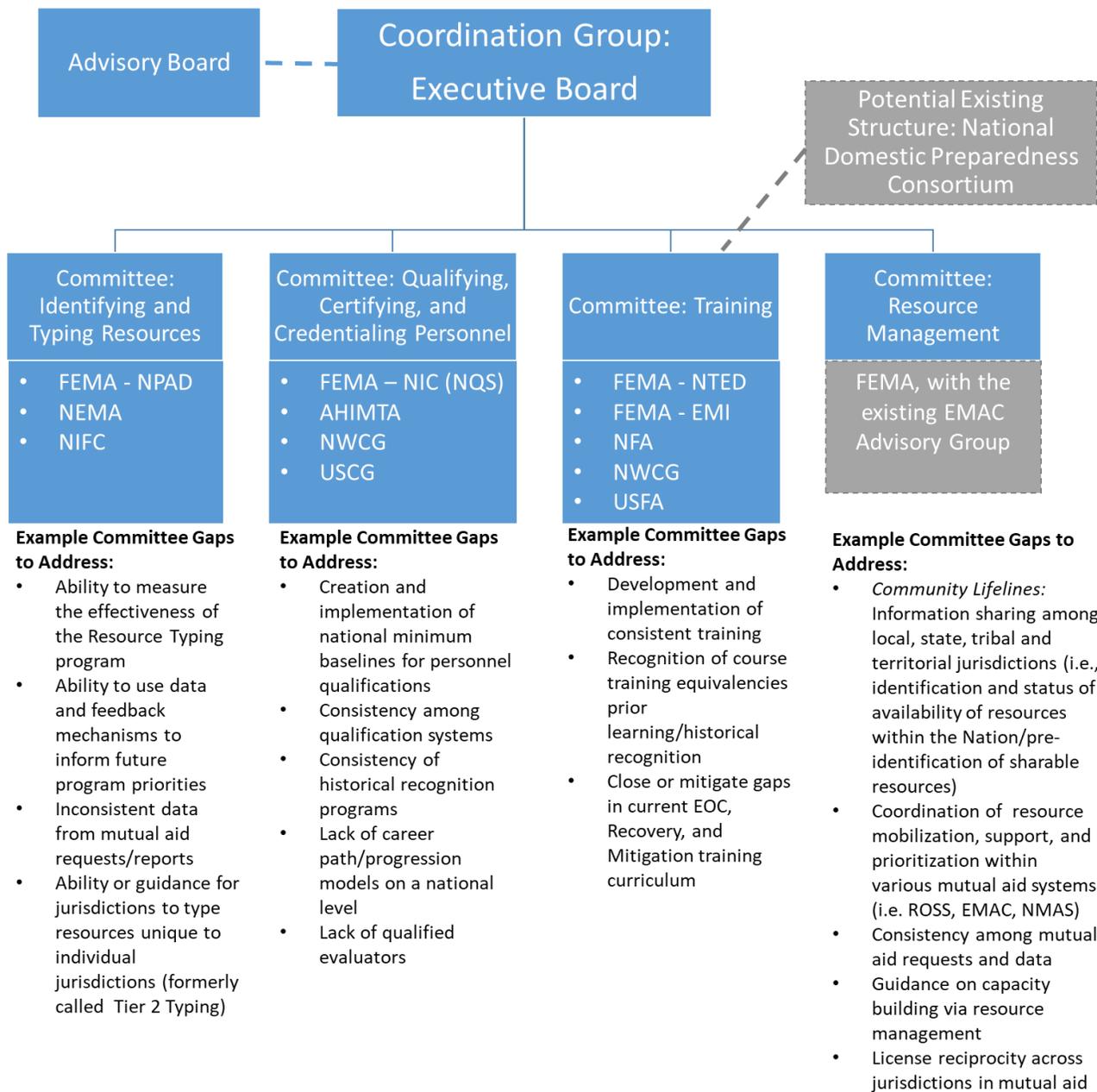
Committees at all levels can leverage the full coordination group structure to forward their efforts and seek buy in from stakeholders at multiple levels of the organization

Action-Oriented Committees

The individual committees seek to tackle issues, address gaps, and increase nationwide capabilities in each of their designated areas. The figure above outlines examples of these known gaps that guide potential committee action.

An example organizational structure is below:

Coordination Group Concept



Represented in all committees: SLTT Jurisdictions and Private Sector and NGO Partners

Sample Ad-Hoc Committees: ESF 14 (Private Sector), EOC Credentialing, Law Enforcement, US&R, IMTs, Lifeline Sector-specific considerations

Next Steps

The NIMS Coordination Group concept implementation is expected to be a multi-year effort, beginning with robust scoping and needs assessment activities. FEMA will engage partner organizations from the beginning, to ensure the needs of the whole community are being met.

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