

# Incident Workforce Development Group



National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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9 January 2020

TO: Grant Beebe, Chair, Fire Management Board  
Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board  
Dan Smith, Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

FROM: Jesse Bender, Chair, Incident Workforce Development Group

SUBJECT: Interagency Standard for Recognition of Prior Learning:  
Recommendation to establish a standardized Recognition of Prior Learning process for the NWCG

The Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) recommends that the NWCG establish a standardized Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process for the interagency wildland fire community. A standardized NWCG RPL process would enable nationally consistent practices for granting individual NWCG qualifications based on prior experience and training, and on previously acquired knowledge, skills, and abilities. It would reduce redundant training and speed time to competency.

A standardized NWCG RPL process would work particularly well for non-operational positions such as Finance, Plans, and Logistics, where NWCG position duties may closely mirror the duties of an individual's home position. The DOI Office of Emergency Management and Texas Forest Service, along with other entities, have models that the NWCG could study when building and NWCG RPL process.

The NWCG Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) is agreeable to developing a standardized NWCG RPL process. The IWDG requests that they be tasked to do so.

For more information, please contact Dave Celino, [david.celino@mass.gov](mailto:david.celino@mass.gov) or 508.326.2403.

Sincerely,

Jesse Bender  
Chair, IWDG

CC: Fire Management Board Executive Secretary  
NWCG Executive Board Executive Secretary