National Wildfire Coordinating Group
Geospatial Subcommittee

This notice is directed to the Wildland Fire GIS Specialist (GISS) community and other users of the Fire Incident Mapping Tools (FIMT). The following information should be communicated through official agency channels as well as through broad interagency communications channels in order to reach FIMT users and GISSs in the widest audience possible.

Beginning in fall of 2017, the FIMT AddIn for ESRI's ArcMap will no longer be updated or supported by the managing partner agencies. Users of FIMT will still have access and be able to use the tool in compatible ArcGIS Desktop versions, but no new development will occur for future ESRI products, including enhancements, updates or bug fixes. Beginning in 2018, NWCG training will not include the FIMT AddIn as part of the S-341 curriculum.

There are many reasons for decommissioning FIMT:

- The code that the tools were built on is aging and it is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.
- The NWCG has released the Wildland Fire Event data standard, which will become the template for wildland fire geospatial information collected on an incident.
- ESRI, the company that develops the ArcGIS Desktop software suite, is shifting focus to ArcGIS Pro, where core functionality will work with ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Enterprise (ArcGIS for Portal, ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS Data Store).
- Feature services have become a standard format for moving and syncing data within the geospatial community, and for working in field editing environments whether connected or disconnected from the internet, using tools like Collector for ArcGIS.
- The basic functionality of the FIMT AddIn is now implemented as standard off-the-shelf ArcGIS functionality, which was not the case when FIMT was developed.
- Skill in using existing off-the-shelf software should be developed, rather than developing, maintaining, and teaching the use of custom tools.

The replacement for FIMT will be the Fire Geospatial Exchange (FGX) tool, which will be available in Spring 2017, along with standard ArcMap/ArcGIS Pro tools and workflows. FGX is a streamlined, lightweight tool that reduces manual work when creating and updating features using the new NWCG Wildland Fire Event data standard and services that implement the standard schema. **Most of the functionality moving forward will use off-the-shelf tools and industry standard workflows.** The S-341 curriculum for 2018 will be revised to incorporate these workflows, the FGX toolset, standard off-the-shelf editing tools, enterprise geospatial services, and field data collection workflows.

Training materials, including on-line lessons, self-study training materials, and job aides covering the new workflows will be available on the resources page of the NWCG Geospatial Training Unit. The target date for training availability is Spring of 2017.

Both FIMT and FGX tools and workflows will be supported for the 2017 fire season. Beginning in 2018, FGX and off-the-shelf ArcGIS functionality will be the recommended workflow. If there are any questions about the timeline of this transition or if you require further details, please contact your agency Geospatial Subcommittee Representative.