



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#023-2011

To: NWCG Committee Chairs
Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs
National IC/AC Council Chair
Renee Beams, Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATR) Chair

From: NWCG Chair *William Page*

Date: November 21, 2011

Subject: Release of November 2011 Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) and NIMS Wildland Fire Implementation

The November 2011 version of the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) has been released and is available for use by the interagency wildland fire community. The PMS 310-1 provides a cornerstone for the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) by establishing minimum interagency wildland fire qualification requirements for national mobilization of resources. While the November 2011 update closely resembles the previous version, this edition includes significant changes which are summarized in the Errata Sheet #3 (Attachment A).

It is important to familiarize yourself with the November 2011 PMS 310-1 for a complete understanding of the revisions, and to insure this information is widely distributed within the interagency wildland fire community. The November 2011 PMS 310-1 can only be found on the NWCG website: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/docs.htm> and is not available through the Publication Management System in hard copy. If a hard copy is needed, individual users can download and print the documents as needed.

NWCG Implementation of National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Requirements

On February 28, 2003, the President issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5 to establish “a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management” for the nation. The National Incident Management System (NIMS), which incorporates the Incident Command System (ICS), was selected as the most efficient tool to successfully manage incidents, emergencies, and events wherever they occur. Subsequently, on December 17, 2003, the President issued HSPD 8 directing all Federal Departments and Agencies to adopt the NIMS concept and organizational structure for domestic emergency management activities.

This memorandum provides NWCG guidance on the implementation of ICS and NIMS training requirements for wildland fire incident response. NWCG is committed to help build our all-hazard capability and readiness for disaster response. Currently all NWCG member agencies have issued agency specific guidance regarding the implementation and completion of NIMS required training. Upon completion of remaining agency specified implementation timelines, NIMS required training will be enforced for all responders participating in positions outlined in the PMS 310-1. The NIMS training requirements of ICS-100 and IS-700 will be added to all technical specialist positions administered in the Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) and Incident Qualification System (IQS).

Appendix A of the November 2011 PMS 310-1 indicates the specific NIMS training requirements by position. These changes will be implemented in conjunction with the October 2012 PMS 310-1 update.

To minimize the impact on the field in implementing the NIMS requirements, the process of historical recognition will be used for all current NWCG responders for ICS courses. Individuals currently qualified will continue to be considered qualified even if they have not completed all of the NIMS ICS training requirements. For anyone with an open position task book and all future trainees, they will have to complete the NIMS training requirements before being considered qualified. All responders will be required to complete the appropriate independent study (IS) courses to be considered qualified for their current position. IS courses are available online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp?page=1>.

PMS 310-1 Revision Cycle

NWCG#036-2010 outlined the annual PMS 310-1 revision process utilized by the Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC). In order to accommodate the state’s annual IQS update schedule, the timeframes outlined below will be utilized from this point forward:

- Proposed Changes must be received by OWDC by June 1st of each year.
- Annual Updates will be posted by October 1st of each year.

- Request for Change Instructions and the Request for Change Form may be found at:
http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/owdc/form_requestforchange.htm

Specific questions regarding the Implementation of NIMS required training should be directed to your OWDC representative. Contact information is located at:
<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/owdc/roster.htm>.

Attachment A: PMS 310-1 Errata Sheet # 3

cc: NWCG Executive Board
Program Management Unit (PMU)
Budget Advisory Unit (BAU) Chair
Roy Johnson, OWFC Deputy Director
Rod Bloms, OWFC Program Analyst

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PMS 310-1 Errata Sheet #3

Effective Date: October 3, 2011

The PMS 310-1 and the incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) / Incident Qualification System (IQS) have been amended as follows:

Medical Unit Leader (MEDL):

Updated MEDL requirements to reflect the current EMT qualification position requirement.

Public Information Officer Type 2 (PIO2):

Updated required experience for PIO2 from Successful to Satisfactory performance as a PIOF.
Updated PIO2 information on the position flow chart.

Training Specialist (TNSP):

Changed the name of TNSP to Incident Training Specialist to distinguish between the career Training Specialist and the Incident Training Specialist for which the course was designed.

Updated Training Specialist language:

Provide NWCG Training with feedback regarding training and qualifications issues related to Trainees, such as lack of basic knowledge of the job/position as a result of the NWCG training course they recently participated in as a prerequisite for their trainee position. Provide this feedback by filling out a survey located at: training.nwcg.gov Click NWCG EVAL button in upper right corner.

NIMS Required Training:

Attached NIMS training requirements to all positions identified in the PMS 310-1; this will be enforced for all responders on October 1, 2012.

Position Task Book Completion Timeframes:

Updated PTB Completion Timeframes language:

Position task books have a limited time in which they can be completed:

A PTB is valid for 3 years from the day it is initiated. Upon documentation of the first task in the PTB, the 3-year time limit is reset from that new date.

If the PTB is not completed in 3 years from the date of the PTB initiation (or first task being evaluated), the PTB will expire. A new PTB may be initiated. Prior experience documented in the expired PTB may be taken into account in completion of the new PTB at the discretion of the Certifying Official. All current qualification standards identified in this document must be applied at the time of the new PTB initiation.

Currency Requirements:

Updated Currency Requirements language:

For the positions identified in this guide, the maximum time allowed for maintaining currency is 3 years for air operations and dispatch positions and 5 years for all others.

Currency for a position can be maintained by successful performance in the position qualified for within the given timeframe, or successful performance in positions identified in this guide.

Updated all positions in the PMS 310-1 to reflect this decision.

Miscellaneous:

Updated definition of Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to mirror FEMA.

Updated course name for S-482 to Advanced Fire Management Applications.

Updated course name for FI-310 to Wildland Fire Investigation: Case Development

Minor format and editorial edits.

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