



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#020-2010

To: Steve Saunders, Director
FEMA National Integration Center

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: April 9, 2010

Subject: NWCG Point-of-Contact with the National Integration Center (NIC)

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board (NWCG) would like to thank you and your staff for joining us at our NWCG All-Chairs Workshop in January 2010. The presentation on the National Integration Center (NIC) was very informative and well received by everyone. Building upon the discussions which took place at the January Workshop, NWCG would like to clarify point-of-contact roles and responsibilities between NWCG and NIC.

NWCG has just completed a major reorganization, including the addition of a Program Management Unit (PMU) and approving the transition to new committee structure. With the reorganization complete, it is appropriate to clarify roles and responsibilities of the NWCG organization and how we would like to engage with the NIC organization for a productive exchange of information.

Currently, NWCG committee level representatives and/or liaisons have attended FEMA Working Group meetings to maintain awareness of each other's work efforts. This level of engagement is essential and needs to continue. NWCG committee members are subject matter experts and can express NWCG views within their program area of work with the FEMA Working Groups.

However, a point-of-contact between the NWCG Executive Board (EB) and the Deputy Director and the Branch Chiefs in the NIC has not been officially established. To facilitate this, the Executive Board has decided that the NWCG Executive Board Vice-Chair will function as the primary point-of-contact with the NIC staff above the FEMA Working Group and NWCG Committee level.

This will facilitate sharing points of view and coordination of efforts between the senior leadership elements of both organizations, while maintaining the on-going subject matter experts

working relationships at the FEMA Working Group and NWCG Committee levels. The intent is to establish official channels at these levels to become more efficient at working toward our common goal of improving our national response capability.

In addition, a standing invitation exists for you, as well as your key staff to attend our next scheduled NWCG All Chairs Workshop, tentatively set for either the third or fourth week in January, 2011. We will keep you informed on the workshop date as planning proceeds.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the NWCG Vice-Chair, Aitor Bidaburu, at (208) 387-5698 or abidaburu@fs.fed.us

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: Executive Board