



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#017-2011

To: NWCG Committee Chairs
Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs
National IC/AC Council Chair

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: September 28, 2011

Subject: NWCG and FEMA National Integration Center (NIC): Collaboration and Coordination

The NWCG Executive Board and Don Grant, Deputy Administrator, FEMA National Integration Center (NIC) have been working collaboratively since 2009. The NIC and NWCG share common goals of effective and efficient preparedness for emergency response and incident management through a comprehensive cycle of planning, organizing, training, evaluating, and improvement planning. These ongoing meetings, and the work by the NWCG Committees and NIC Working Teams, have increased our understanding of the other's mission. The NWCG and the NIC have a shared vision of increasing collaboration and cooperation between the organizations. To address this shared vision, NWCG formally designated the NWCG Vice-Chair as the primary NWCG point of contact between NWCG Executive Board and NIC leadership (NWCG #020-2010 Memorandum, April 2010).

Representatives of NWCG subgroups are participating and will continue to participate in NIC Working Groups on a number of activities of mutual interest to the NIC and NWCG.

The NIC and NWCG have agreed to the following protocols for cooperation, collaboration, and communication:

1. The NIC and NWCG leadership will continue to take advantage of opportunities to increase efficiency and effectiveness in areas of mutual interest and concern.
2. Only the NIC Director and Branch Chiefs can express the views of the NIC.

3. Only the NWCG Executive Board members can express the views of the NWCG.
4. Members of established NWCG groups, serving as NWCG representatives on NIC Working Groups, are subject matter experts and may express NWCG views within their program areas of work with the NIC Working Groups.
5. NWCG participation in NIC Working Groups can significantly contribute to shaping national guidance for emergency response and incident management.
6. The NIC is not obligated or expected to provide representative members to NWCG subgroups.
7. Periodic meetings of the NIC and NWCG leadership are mutually beneficial and may be held to exchange information and encourage collaboration between the NIC and the NWCG organization.

Attached is the Memorandum from the NIC Deputy Administrator to the NIC Working Teams advising them of the above protocols for cooperation, collaboration, and communication.

This partnership with the NIC will strengthen both organizations through sharing of lessons learned, reducing redundancy of similar work activities, and enhancing communication between work groups with similar business interests.

Attachment A: FEMA Memorandum to NIC Working Groups

cc: Don Grant, Deputy Administrator for
FEMA National Integration Center (NIC)
NWCG Executive Board
Program Management Unit (PMU)
Budget Advisory Unit (BAU) Chair