



# 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 Raage*

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/crslist.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](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