

May 22, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fire Management Board

FROM: Fire Executive Council

SUBJECT: Evolving Incident Management

At its April 8, 2014, meeting the Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC) discussed a number of issues and concerns regarding the "Evolving Incident Management" (EIM) initiative/activity. Those issues are captured in the EIM briefing paper for that meeting. At the conclusion of its discussion the FFPC asked the Fire Executive Council (FEC) to organize and oversee development of additional information, analysis, and options to address the issues and concerns.

The FEC subsequently met and discussed how to implement the tasking from FFPC. The FEC co-chairs subsequently met with the National Association of State Foresters Forest Fire Protection Committee to discuss and coordinate the approach. This memorandum provides direction and expectation to the Fire Management Board.

**1. Update and validate the "case for change"**

Review the NWCG "case for change" in order to validate original intent and the nature of the problems with the status quo. Review analyses results, alternatives depicted, and final Phase One Report to validate and consider any needed updates based upon new information. Validate the Phase Two Strategic Implementation Plan. The following issues and topics are to be addressed:

- New insights
- Changed conditions
- Costs
- Time to implement
- Complexity associated with implementation
- Risks associated with implementation
- Consequences of not making adjustments
- Identify the roles and responsibilities for intergovernmental and agency bodies including decision-making roles for each work area.

In updating and validating the "case for change":

- Recognize that although much of the analysis will be reviewing and updating prior work, give attention to new insights, changed conditions, new data, etc.
- Include NASF and others as full partners in the work
- Engage and utilize subject matter expertise.
- Engage affected stakeholders (especially line officers and agency administrators, federal and non-federal) in collection of data and analysis of alternatives and implications

## ***2. Continue with certain implementation activities, but not with others***

The workforce management challenges facing the interagency wildland fire program require changes to our current practices. During this period of re-examination and re-validation of those challenges and the options available to address them, federal agencies will continue with all activities that support any option for addressing the workforce management problems highlighted in the original NWCG case for change.

However, activities that assume adoption of a particular alternative, such as the number of national interagency teams available for national response, qualification levels for members of those teams, or changes to mobilization processes or that foreclose management options for alternatives will not occur in 2014. Federal wildland fire program managers, working with affected partners and stakeholders, will determine which activities are to be suspended in order to preserve the prerogatives of agency leadership to make final decisions.

## ***3. Reporting and Deliverables***

- In mid-summer 2014 the FMB will provide a progress/status report
- FMB should be prepared to deliver to the FEC in the fall of 2014 a report and analysis that:
  - Updates the case for change
  - Provides recommendations for addressing identified problems and issues
  - Provides a high level schedule for implementing those recommendations

The FEC will provide analysis and recommendations to the Federal Fire Policy Council for final decision.