



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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MEMORANDUM – 21 May 2014

TO: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs, EIM Project Leader, EIM
Work Unit Leads

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board *Dan Smith*

SUBJECT: Evolving Incident Management (EIM) Update

Recent communications among a wide range of leaders and stakeholders in the Evolving Incident Management (EIM) project have raised a number of important issues. These include concerns about specific elements and the overall direction of the project. The NWCG Executive Board is working with the leaders of NWCG member organizations as well as EIM project leadership to address these issues. We will keep leaders and stakeholders informed of EIM issues through established communications avenues, including status updates like this one.

Current EIM project status:

- The project has not been terminated or suspended. As we address the stakeholder concerns mentioned above, many EIM project related efforts will continue.
- EIM implementation timelines contained in the Phase 2 Strategic Implementation Plan are no longer valid. These timelines have been pushed back indefinitely; new timelines will be established when outstanding issues are addressed.
- The EIM project manager will continue to engage GACG-AC and other stakeholders to evaluate options, conduct programmatic risk assessments, and weigh the risks of possible unintended consequences associated with EIM project efforts.
- The EIM project manager will continue to engage stakeholders regarding EIM components that have prompted the most concern. This will include developing alternative approaches or other options to address concerns in these key areas:
 - The recommendation that all IMTs will be qualified at the Type 1 level.
 - The goal of creating 40 National IMTs. Some GACGs have expressed strong reservations with this recommendation.
 - Control of IMT mobilization and rotation.
 - Potential transference of risk to Type 3 organizations and/or emerging incidents as the proposed new IMT structure and distribution is established.

- The EIM project manager and work unit leads will continue to work on less controversial issues associated with the project, such as speed to competency, in collaboration with affected stakeholders.

As stated above, NWCG will continue to work on EIM issues with member agency leaders and representatives through the established governance structures. We welcome the opportunity to seek solutions and better engage our partners in this complex project. Collaboration with stakeholders has been, and will continue to be, an important component of the EIM project.

Please contact Dan Smith, NWCG Chair or any of the other NWCG Executive Board members if you have questions.

cc: Bill Kaage, Chair, Fire Management Board (FMB)
NWCG Executive Board Members
NWCG Committee Chairs
NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU)