



NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-15-002

Date: 21 April 2015

TO: Mark Jones, Chair, Operations and Training Committee

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Wildland Fire Management Training for Agency Administrators and Fire Management Officers

**Purpose:** This memorandum tasks the NWCG Operations and Training Committee to establish a comprehensive NWCG wildland fire management training curriculum for Agency Administrators and Fire Management Officers.

**Tasking:** Accomplish the following:

1. Identify minimum knowledge and skills required by the Agency Administrator for effective oversight of a wildland fire management program. Due November 30, 2015
2. Identify minimum knowledge and skills required by the Fire Management Officer for effective management of a wildland fire program. Due November 30, 2015
3. Develop an instructional strategy or strategies to address these requirements. Due February 1, 2016
4. Establish the appropriate management for curriculum development, content management, oversight and delivery. Due April 1, 2016

**Background:** Minimum knowledge and skills required by Agency Administrators and Fire Management Officers are currently established in documents such as Chapters 2-5 of the 2015 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations and the Indian Affairs Manual, Part 90, Chapter 1. Although these are established independently by each agency, the body of knowledge and skills required across agency lines is largely identical.

The curriculum for basic wildland fire management knowledge and skills for for Agency Administrators and Fire Management Officers currently resides in three courses: Fire Program Management M-581, primarily targeted toward current or future fire program managers, and Local Fire Management Leadership (LFML) and National Fire Management Leadership (NFML), primarily targeted toward Agency Administrators.

The five federal wildland fire agencies require all Agency Administrators and their acting to complete either LFML or NFML. The NFML course is delivered at the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) while the LFML courses are delivered at the geographic level. Several Geographic Area Training Centers are presenting the LFML curriculum concurrently with the M-581 Fire Program Management curriculum.

The NFML course curriculum is overseen by an interagency steering committee which is not chartered under any sanctioning body. The LFML curriculum was originally derived from the NFML curriculum and has been adapted by Geographic Area Training Centers to meet the needs

of respective geographic area audiences. This situation leads to overlap and lack of clarity between LFML and NFML regarding the intended audience, course content, purpose, and objectives. In addition, course topic areas are inconsistent across geographic areas.

Overlap of course subject areas exists in the M-581 curriculum and the LFML/NFML curriculum. Although Agency Administrators and Fire Program Managers have two distinct jobs, some components of which are entirely different, there are similarities in terms of the minimum wildland fire management knowledge and skills required to do those jobs.

On February 3-4, 2015, a federal interagency (USFS, BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS) group met to discuss the future of formal wildland fire program management training for Agency Administrators. The task group was comprised of interagency Agency Administrators, fire management personnel, and regional and national interagency fire and aviation management workforce development and training personnel. Although the discussions of this group were about the Agency Administrator training only, the group concurred that the central organization responsible for stewardship of the training objectives should be the NWCG's Operations and Training Committee.

This tasking is based on the outcome of that meeting and on the NWCG's desire to achieve a performance based training system and an efficient and streamlined training curriculum.

**Contact:** Questions regarding this tasking can be directed to:  
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