

# PROPOSED: NWCG Tasking Memorandum

TO: Chair, NWCG Executive Board  
FROM: Chair, NCSC Susie Stingley  
SUBJECT: Dispatch Workload and Fair Share Cost Analysis Tool

## **Purpose** *(required)*:

This memorandum tasks the NWCG Executive Board to form an independent task group to develop a national standard process to evaluate dispatch center workloads, identify recommended staffing, and determine agency fair share costs based on workload by unit/agency for supporting a dispatch center.

The majority of the 145 dispatch centers have expressed the need for a national tool that cannot be manipulated to determine agency fair share costs, staffing needs, and dispatch core duties. Annually, many interagency dispatch center boards meet to determine and allocate their respective agency contributions. However, without a national standard there tends to be confusion and uncertainty at these meetings. Unfortunately this leads to interagency partnerships breaking down and creates added stress to the dispatch centers when agencies cannot come to an agreement on a model, process, or contribution share.

Knowing the appropriate costs of the dispatch/coordination system for each agency/bureau and states will be of value in optimization and modernization.

## **Action/Tasking** *(required)*:

The Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project (IDIP) team recommended in the transition to the National Coordination System Committee (NCSC) to continue efforts in developing a national workload and Fair Share Cost Analysis Tool (FCAT) to determine the appropriate staffing and interagency split of funding for a dispatch center.

### Objectives:

- 1) Develop a national standard process to evaluate dispatch center workload;
- 2) Utilize the workload analysis to develop dispatch center staffing needs;
- 3) Display dispatch center workload by unit/agency percentage; and
- 4) Determine fair share support costs for dispatch centers based on workload percentage by unit/agency.

The implementation of a standard interagency costing tool will benefit the federal wildland fire agencies/bureaus, tribes, states and local governments. A national standardized process will enable management to look at the entire dispatch/coordination system from a workload and

budget perspective. Potentially FCAT could support future dispatch center consolidations resulting in a possible footprint reduction.

**Background** *(required)*:

The FireOrg application was developed by the National Coordinators in conjunction with Fire Program Analysis in 2001-2002. The objectives were to develop a national standard process to evaluate dispatch center workload, identify FTE staffing, and determine fair share percentage based on workload by unit/agency.

In November 2004, the National Coordinators requested continued implementation of FireOrg and FireOrg be adopted as the national standard dispatch workload analysis program. The National Wildland Fire Directors supported FireOrg in concept but there were issues related to sponsorship and governance.

The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Program (IDOPP) was tasked to test, validate, and make recommendations to improve existing workload analysis and staffing models or develop a new one for national use. FireOrg was found useful in determining staffing for pure wildland fire dispatch centers (non-24 hour and non-law enforcement) and is included in the National Toolbox.

In 2015, the focus of IDIP was to improve program delivery of dispatch services while meeting the mission needs of the Forest Service and Department of Interior, as well as state, local, and tribal stakeholders. The IDIP study identified the need for a FCAT as the number one priority for 145 local, geographic and national dispatch/coordination centers.

The FCAT group has already completed some preliminary work on organizing and evaluating FireOrg and other independent models (Carter, Southwest, Poirier, etc.).

**Contact** *(optional)*:

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