

California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group



July 20, 2007

To: California Wildland Fire Community
Subject: Meeting Notes – July 12, 2007 Meeting



Attached to this cover letter are the subject meeting notes. This was a most positive meeting, demonstrating the desire CWCG membership has to provide the coordinated leadership you expect and deserve. We have begun to tackle a number of key issues toward improving our collective ability to provide safe, effective, and efficient wildland fire suppression and management. We recognize there is much to do, and will rely on each of you to work with us toward these goals.



During Monday and Tuesday of this week, we joined with other members of the California wildland fire community, and representatives from the Forest Service's national office to develop the first draft of wildland fire suppression principles for "I-Zone", or WUI, operations. Obviously there are already a number of operating principles that we all use to guide our decisions in that arena; this effort is to bring them together into one place, and to clearly articulate performance expectations in this environment. Once we have cleaned the draft up a bit, we'll be forwarding these principles out to you, with some further guidance regarding their application.



It's no secret this is shaping up to be a memorable fire season. There have already been any number of close calls contributed to "unexpected fire behavior". I think it is fair to say that we should all expect, prepare for, and deploy for "worst case" fire behavior scenarios every time we engage. If we're wrong, so be it. To make risk decisions otherwise is foolish.



Keep your S.A. sharp, take nothing for granted.



/s/ -ed-

ED HOLLENSHEAD
Chair

CWCG – Meeting Notes – July 12, 2007

1. Fire weather and predictive services organizational efficiencies strategy and agreement.

- Establish an independent workgroup to identify the level (and elements) of service (products) cooperators require (need), and explore options available for delivery.
 - Principles:
 - Take advantage of existing capacity of other organizations (e.g. NWS)
 - National Standard for predictive services forms the baseline for products delivered, and *may* be supplemented by needs commonly expressed by end users
 - Develop options that: 1) reduce redundancies (staffing, infrastructure); 2) increase efficiency in product delivery; and, 3) reduce costs
 - Team Membership
 - Interagency, representative of multi-level users. Include NWS, and a recognized member of wx / predictive services organization from outside the PSW
 - Timing
 - Assign team lead by September 1, 2007
 - Complete review and options development by January 31, 2008
 - CWCG decision and implementation plan development by March 31, 2008

2. CFPA - status and strategy to amend in response to Esperanza ARB Action Plan Recommendation #1a - Recommendation #1b

Recommendation 01A – Update the California Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CFPA) to include distribution of existing strategic high-risk interface geography location maps to complement existing Direct Protection Area (DPA) maps.

RESPONSIBLE UNIT: USFS FAM Region 4, USFS FAM Region 5 (Coordinate with Cal Fire)

LEAD UNIT: USFS FAM Region 5

COMPLETION DATE: July 31, 2007

Strategy The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group, at their meeting on July 12, 2007, agreed to support an amendment to the draft 2007 California Fire Management Agreement (CFMA) to require local units to identify and include existing risk identification map products in the local operating plan. The amendment will require local units to use these products as the subject of table-top or other tactical decision exercises. These exercises will also include discussions of agency and cooperator roles and limitations within the DPA. The amendment will require local operating plans to describe how out-of-area resources will be briefed on the attributes described in the map products.

Objective By July 31, 2007, the amendment will be prepared, vetted and ready for inclusion in the 2007 revision of the CFPA.

3. Finalize Charter

Final draft completed and e-mailed to CWCG members for signature by appropriate persons

4. CWCG intent and operating principles to: “Select, monitor and evaluate Federal Interagency Type I, Type II, and Fire Use teams”

Intent: Through CWCG involvement in the selection and performance monitoring of Federal Interagency Type I, II and Fire Use teams, California fields qualified teams that meet NWCG standards. They are responsive to agency administrator direction and intent, and adaptable and flexible to meet changing mission requirements... and place the safety of incident personnel and the public as the number one priority. They take every opportunity to build capacity through training and mentoring. They are innovative and creative in implementing methods that improve incident management. IMTs consistently strive to leave interagency relationships better than found when arriving on the incident.

Selection:

- * It is important to maintain a mixture of interagency federal teams (IMT1, IMT2, FUMT) to respond to the variety of incident types and complexities

- * Team configuration will meet established standards without having to share personnel between teams
- * Team members will meet established standards for certification and qualification
- * IMT2 not only work within an important niche in incident management, they also serve as the feeder group for the IMT1
- * Deviations from the established five-year tenure policy will be approved by CWCG before the selection process begins
- * If there are insufficient candidates to fill the same number of teams that existed in the previous year, the team with the IC that has the shortest tenure will be decommissioned

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- * Monitoring of team status and performance is a responsibility of CWCG
- * CWCG will use a variety of methods, including review of after action reports and team performance ratings, attending close-out meetings, performing on-site reviews, agency administrator interviews, and post-season IC interviews, to evaluate team performance and contribute to the next IC meeting
- * CWCG will periodically request team status from GACCs regarding staffing levels, activity, availability, etc.

5. Campfire Permit (LE-63) - issue and discussion

This is a CDF form. Don't place on-line as the intent is to have the face-to-face opportunity to talk about the tenets of the permit and to deliver a fire prevention message

6. Team 5 IC request for temporary replacement for personal reasons (Team 5)

Approved

7. IMT meetings

CWCG has agreed that spring meetings of interagency federal incident management (including FUMT) and CalFire incident command teams will benefit from being held concurrently. It appears the 2008 meeting has already been locked in for Reno. CWCG will work with the IMT Coordinating Group to set the parameters for the 2008 meeting and beyond.

Follow up Items:

- * **CWCG will commission a task force to review the status of “standing committees”. The purpose for the effort and any guiding principles will be established at the next meeting of CWCG. (October 9 Meeting)**
- * **Chair will ensure today’s discussion regarding IMT selection and management is included as part of Appendix A to the Charter, before it is finalized. CWCG will review, adapt, and incorporate as applicable CalFire incident command team performance review protocols (Chair and CalFire member will review and offer a draft for acceptance by CWCG and include as Appendix A. Time - ASAP)**
- * **Authorities listed in Appendix A to the CWCG Charter will be vetted through Mike Dougherty... specific attention to the national DOI and DOA agreement (Chair will follow through)**
- * **Chair** will identify and work with web master hosting CWCG site to update and refresh
- * **Chair** will respond to issues raised by absent members
- * **Chair** will ensure correct logos are attached to letterhead and website
- * **Chair will ensure CALMAC Guide is put onto the CWCG website.** (All members agree to review the Guide and be prepared to discuss on a conference call at 0900 on Friday, July 27. Chair will provide number to membership)
- * **Next meeting of CWCG will be held October 9.** Location tba (co-located with FIRESCOPE BoD... alternatives being discussed are Ontario and SMF)