

ISSUE PAPER

April 21, 2008

Prepared For: Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Submitted By: Jason Hartman, on behalf of the RMCG Information & Education Committee

Issue: Selection of Public Information Officer nominees for S-420 and S-520 courses is important to all agencies within the RMA. The RMCG Information and Education Committee (Info/Ed Committee) has diverse agency representation and experience/knowledge that would be beneficial in the selection of nominees.

Background: The Info/Ed Committee offered input to the selection process in 2006, and it worked well. There were three reasons originally that the Info/Ed Committee asked to be part of the process. First the Operations committee would call PIO1's shortly before they were to meet to make selections and ask for input on the nominees. This was not enough time to give valid consideration to candidates, especially if the PIO1's called didn't know the nominees. Second, some selections made in the past were of candidates who were not going to participate in team or incident assignments. In the view of the Info/Ed Committee it makes sense to avoid those situations and provide thoughtful input that will lead to the selection of those nominees that are going to make the most positive contribution to the region's incident management teams and/or activities. Third, the observation of Info/Ed Committee members has been that the PIO pool is probably less known to the Operations Committee and/or the Coordination Group than perhaps the other sections.

Recommendation: The Info/Ed Committee become part of the formal process of selecting PIO candidates for S-420 and S-520 courses. Coordination of participation occur between the respective chairs of the Ops Committee and the Info/Ed Committee to allow for quality review and recommendation of applications by the Info/Ed Committee. Process for participation be documented in writing to include timelines and other considerations and be acknowledged by both chairs. .

Remarks:

ACTION TAKEN (Circle One): **Approved**/Approved as Modified Below/Rejected/
Deferred Until _____

David Carter
/S/ Chair – Rocky Mountain Area Coordinating Group

5/8/08
Date

Explanation: Ops/Training Committees have been directed to include Info/Ed committee in PIO selection on teams and S-420/520.