



Memorandum No. 16-024
Date: 25 October 2016

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members
FROM: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Glenn".

SUBJECT: NWCG Data Management Standards for Incident Complexes and Merged Wildfires

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to issue NWCG data management standards for incident complexes and merged wildfires. These standards are intended to enable accurate and consistent interagency data management practices for incident complexes and merged wildfires. NWCG encourages implementation of these standards. Please distribute these standards through your agency channels.

Issue/Action Requested:

These standards will reside in the publications library on the NWCG website <http://www.nwcg.gov/publications>. A copy of the standards is attached (Attachment 1). Revisions to these standards should be expected and will be communicated through NWCG Memorandums.

Incident complexes and merged wildfires affect the ability to enter, report, and use incident data in an accurate and useful manner. Managers have experienced ongoing issues related to wildland fire data management such as: limited interagency guidance for reporting and data management; limited information technology system flexibility; incident data integrity; and use of geospatial data.

In September 2015, the NWCG Executive Board tasked the Data Management Committee to develop clear, common guidance on how to document and manage data about incidents managed as incident complexes and merged wildfires. The Data Management Committee convened a task team that represented the following business areas: fire reporting; incident business; fire planning; coordination and dispatch; intelligence; operations; resource ordering; and decision support (e.g. WFDSS).

The NWCG Executive Board accepted the task team's final report, *Data Management for Incidents Managed as a Complex and Wildfires that Merge; Final Report and Recommendations (Data Management Committee Task Team)* in May 2016. These standards are based on the final report. A copy of the report is attached (Attachment 2).

Contact Information: If you have any questions regarding this memo, or the standards, please contact your bureau/agency representative:

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Attachments:

1. *NWCG Data Management Standards for Incident Complexes and Merged Wildfires.*
2. *Data Management for Incidents Managed as a Complex and Wildfires that Merge; Report and Recommendations (Data Management Committee Task Team, May 17, 2016).*