

NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 9 AND 10, 2008

FINAL NRCG OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 2009 CHARTER

- Charter was reviewed and updates were made to the membership, liaisons, representatives and technical specialists. Charter was signed on forwarded to Tracey Nimlos.

SPRING IMT/FUMT THEME AND AGENDA ITEMS

- It was decided that the theme of our NR IMT/FUMT meeting would be, "FIRE IN THE 21ST CENTURY".
- Potential agenda items included:
 1. policy change and potential impacts;
 2. WFDSS vs WFSA;
 3. climate change and short and long-term effects;
 4. geographic area draw down levels; and
 5. NRCG perspectives on future challenges.
- The structure and final scheduling of the team meetings will be developed on a schedule conference call on January 12, 2009 at 1000 hours.

NIMO – HOW CAN THE NR UTILIZE THE NIMO TEAM(S) AND WORK THEM INTO OUR STRATEGY

- Assist the MAC Group in developing and using the prioritization and rating tools.
- Use to provide oversight, mentoring and coaching of Type III incidents, complexes and/or cluster of fires.
- Provide oversight on long-term fire events, and provide oversight, mentoring and coaching of Type II IMTs.
- Use to provide out-of-area IMT oversight, mentoring and coaching.
- One issue that surfaced was the Delegation of Authority, and who, what, where, when and how that would be addressed when NIMO Teams were assigned to provide oversight, mentoring and coaching to assigned IMTs and/or FUMTs.

INSURANCE COMPANY OVERVIEW

- Joe King made a presentation to the Operations Committee regarding Chubb Insurance Wildfire Defense Services that included:

1. education of the policy holders through on-site evaluations and recommendations to the home owners;
 2. mitigation of the potential hazards; and
 3. suppression
- NRCG is currently developing guidelines and protocols for the IMTs and/or FUMTs for the 2009 fire season when there are insurance company operations involved in incident management.

NATIVE AMERICAN CREWS

- Robert LaPlant made a presentation on the Native American Crew Plan and discussed the following:
 1. addressing physical fitness requirements for camp crews; and
 2. developing an avenue to field Type 2 IA crews, IA modules and fire use modules.

NR SMOKEJUMPER TYPE III IMTS

- Mike Goicoechea made a presentation regarding the development and the abilities of the smokejumper program to stand-up multiple Type III IMTs upon request.
- The 2009 mission is to develop 2 formal Smokejumper Type III IMTs.
- These Type III IMTs will configure and organized based upon the requesting agency criteria.
- Should be noted that the requesting agency may have to provide some assistance regarding finance/plans

STATE OF THE NR TEAMS

- Field 2 National Type I IMTs
- Field 5 Geographic Area Type II IMTs
- Field 1 National FUMT to be hosted by the NR
- Exercise the R-1 – R-3 agreement and field an additional National FUMT to be hosted by the SW.
- In addition to the NR Smokejumper Type III IMTs, continue to develop 1 Type III IMT as a farm team for the IMTs and/or FUMTs.
- Re-affirmed our commitment to:
 1. Continue to moving towards all teams having the capabilities of managing any type of event, even at the most complex level.
 2. Team size and configuration will be commensurate with the management organization needed for the assignment.
 3. Maintain the greatest number of fully qualified teams as possible.
 4. Maintain speed, agility and focus.

There was additional discussion centered around increasing/accelerating our team's knowledge, skills and abilities, and increasing their capabilities to manage

the most complex incidents/complexes. The operations committee identified a potential solution to resolve this issue by sponsoring the “Complex Incident Management Course” (S-520 equivalent) in the NR next fall, and have our Type II IMTs attend. The proposal has been forwarded to the NRCG Board for a decision. Refer to attachment 1.

IMT/FUMT Recruitment and Retention

- In one decade, the Northern Rockies has gone from 9 Geographic Area Type II IMTs to 5 Geographic Area Type II IMTs. This year we were on the verge of only staffing 4 Geographic Area Type II IMTs while the large fire occurrence and use of the IMTs has increased significantly.
- Equitable pay for IMT members.
- Financial incentives for employees to participate on IMTs/FUMTs, such as covering salaries for a portion of the fire season and travel for our militia.
- Consider Fire Department participation as a “Soft Match” for grants.
- Overall IMT/FUMT support including supplies, trailers and uniforms.

ATTACHMENT 1

NRCG Board of Directors

At the Fall NRCG Operations Committee meeting, the committee discussed progress in regards to meeting the Northern Rockies 2013-14 commitment to staff seven wildland fire teams (WFTs) would maintain the highest level of knowledge, skills and abilities, and be capable of responding to the most complex events and wildland fire use events. It has become obvious that it will be difficult getting qualified type 2 individuals to step up to be trainees with the type 1 teams prior to being able to attend S-520. This has been, and will continue to be a bottle neck to us meeting our future goals. There are many reasons for this, several are: backfill capabilities; folks nearing and/or retiring; and many others that don't want to attend S-520.

The operations committee has identified a possible solution to this problem. There is the potential to have the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) sponsored here in the Northern Rockies next fall. This courses priority is State and Local government agency personnel. However, because the Northern Rockies IMT's are interagency in their organizational structure, there is the potential that the CIMC steering committee for this course may select the Northern Rockies. The CIMC Steering Committee will be making their final decision on course presentation location in January, 2009.

The Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) is a partnership between the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a national incident management training program that addresses multi-jurisdictional and all-hazard issues, including wildfire, that confront emergency responders.

Course objectives are to train command staff positions to function as qualified incident management teams who are able to assist their forestry organizations and emergency departments in the management of large or highly complex wildfires and other all hazard incidents. The focus of the course is to better prepare team members to address the unique and challenging management needs associated with these types of incidents.

Using classroom lecture and simulated incidents the student will understand the role and function of an incident management team, the applicability of management principles to the incident management, and the special considerations of incident management within geographic areas of the nation.

Prerequisite: I / S-420 and Position Training

In 1998, work started on the development of the CIMC curriculum. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) secured a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and charged the CIMC Steering Committee with development of a course that could be delivered up to twice a year anywhere in the United States and completed within a week.

Since 2001, the NASF has successfully conducted 11 CIMC sessions in Arizona, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas, New York and Oregon.

The Operations Committee is asking for your approval to pursue this opportunity in the Northern Rockies.

Chuck Stanich

Chair NRCG Operations Committee