CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP

July 26, 2023

Memorandum

To:	Incident Commanders California Federal Interagency Incident Management Teams
From:	Jaime Gamboa, Chair California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group
Subject:	2023 Fire Season Expectation of Incident Commanders

It is with gratitude that the members of the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG) say thank you for continuing to navigate the continuous changes that we are seeing due to the weather, Complex Incident Management (CIM) and changes in workforce.

In the recent months Canada has taken the wildfire focus as the fire activity has been significant and producing a need for United States and the international wildland fire community to respond. The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (nifc.gov) for July through October shows potential to be much less in California than for the last few years but you will see that the Pacific Northwest is in for a long season.

Continuing to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and leadership is the goal of CWCG and is outlined in California Federal Incident Management Team Operations Guide.

CWCG asks that Incident Management Teams (IMT) utilize a risk management process to continually weigh/evaluate the values at risk against safety and exposure for fire personnel and the public, the cost of implementation and the availability of resources. For more information on risk-based decision making throughout the duration of an incident follow the link to Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) and Strategic Risk Assessment (SRA).

Incident Commanders should review their mobilization roster and determine if they have individuals who need a CIM evaluation. To ensure an adequate evaluation period, the IC should make the request for evaluation within the first 3 days of the IMTs assignment if possible. The incident must minimally be at a complexity level of 2 with activity that suggests a quality evaluation can be conducted. CIM evaluations in CA are to be requested through the respective GACC Duty Officer and evaluators coordinated by the CWCG Liaison to the Operations Committee.

Establishing a positive working relationship with the Agency Administrators of the incident will maintain success. We expect that you work with the Agency Administrators to provide clear expectations early in the incident that describe incident objectives, desired outcomes, and process for evaluation. Develop with the Agency Administrators how coordination and communications with affected stakeholders will be maintained. Ensure that you share the IMT evaluation form with the Agency Administrators at your In-brief meeting and articulate clear metrics upon which you and your team will be evaluated.

During closeout procedures of the incident, Incident Commanders will obtain an evaluation from the hosting unit. This evaluation will be submitted to the GACC within two weeks of demobilization. The evaluation will then be forwarded to the CWCG Operations Committee Chair for documentation. A standard template for team evaluations is located in Appendix B of the 2023 California Federal Incident Management Team Operating Guidelines.

Continue to reference the California Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA) 2018-2023 with extension to 2024, which includes important items relative to the payment for structure defense as well as templates for cost chare.

CWCG will be directly involved with the IMTs during the 2023 fire season. While individual fire leadership visits are normal during an incident, these individuals may also be representing CWCG during their visit.

CWCG expects that all IMTs stive to create a diverse, inclusive workforce and a harassment free work environment.

In conclusion, CWCG emphasizes that safety of firefighters, incident responders and the public has always been and will always be our main priority on every incident.

Thank you for your commitment, passion, and dedication to incident management.

_____07/26/2023_____
CWCG Chairperson   Date