



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – Jan 21-23, 2014

**UPCOMING SWCG DATES**

<b>SWCG Meeting</b>	<b>Santa Fe (Conference Line for AZ SWCG)</b>	<b>February 18 @ 0900</b>

Attendance			
x	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore
x	BLM New Mexico – Hector Madrid	x	AZ State Forestry - Dave Geyer (via phone)
x	FS – Bill VanBruggen	x	NM State Forestry – Eugene Pino
x	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	x	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Loren Derosear	x	BIA Western – Leon Ben (via phone)
x	BIA Southwest – Cal Pino		

**PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

Previous meeting notes reviewed, edited and approved. Action Items have been updated on the SWCG Action Items Tracking Table.

**January 21, 2014**

**Introductions** – New Chair of SWCG Cal Pino

**SWCG Meeting with SWA Operations Committee**

SWCG met with the Ops Committee to review the game plan for meeting with the ICs and the IMT member selection meeting on Thursday.

Fritz Mueller – Chair of Ops Committee – Ops needs clarification on IMT selection process as it relates to use of ADs, Fire Departments, applicants from out of area, etc.

**All members agreed that Agency trainees should be paired up with AD and Fire Department personnel to the extent possible for development of the future workforce.**

Priorities for selection of IMT members are as follows:

1. Agency employees (includes Federal, State, permanent FD/local Agency, tribal employees)
2. Federal/State Agency employees from outside the GACC
3. Within GACC ADs/State/FD Agency Supplemental employees
4. Out of GACC ADs and other non-Federal employees (case by case basis)
5. Members with late or no application (must get confirmation of supervisory approval)

**Action Item:** Send the language to the Ops Committee for final review, then add to the SWA Mobilization Guide, IMT Guidelines, and SWCG Handbook. Kenan Jaycox Due: Feb 1, 2014

Discussion occurred on how to handle those members who show up on rosters that did not apply in ICAP. It was agreed that those who did apply in ICAP will get priority. Those who did not apply in ICAP will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Four of the five IMTs carry a Deputy IC. Discussion occurred on if this will impact the use of the priority trainee ICs and if there is enough workload for the trainee to have a good quality assignment. SWCG feels that carrying both is still OK; however it is incumbent upon the IC, Deputy, and Trainee to manage this.

Discussion also occurred on whether priority IC Trainees should be in primary IMT rosters. SWCG agreed that the Trainee position will take priority, but will still allow priority trainees to occupy other primary IMT positions.

**Prevention/Information Committee Update** Kenny Jaramillo/Fred Hernandez

Fire Restriction AAR occurred in December. Feedback was received from the agencies. A briefing paper of the AAR was given to the SWCG. A big success was the communication amongst and between the zones. Coordinators for each agency/state were established and also helped improve communications. A still on-going issue is that when one portion/agency of a county, the map(s) colored the entire county red as being in restrictions. The committee is working with GIS folks and the programmers to get this issue fixed. The committee would also like SWCG to reinforce the importance of zone NFDRS Fire Danger Operating Plans. As of now, the Southeast AZ Zone is the only one in place. This one could be used as a template.

**Action Item:** Identify a NM Zone for creation of an NFDRS Operating Plan using SE AZ Zone's as a template. The SWCG agrees that Pecos Zone would be a good candidate. Hector Madrid April 2014

The committee is working on different avenues to get the word out to the public on fire awareness, such as handouts such as "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire" (a California product), Awareness Week (March 30 – April 5, 2014), etc. Discussion occurred on whether funding from the agencies could be made available for the Southwest to create a similar product to the California one. SWCG supports the concept but there is no \$\$ available for most agencies, other than severity dollars. SWCG agencies requesting severity dollars may elect to include monies for this effort in their request.

**Action Item:** The committee is also looking for a charter revision for the Prevention/Information Committee. Draft language has been worked on for presenting to the SWCG and would allow for more direction and annual expectations for the committee. They will give final draft to Cal for approval/dissemination.

### **Aviation Committee Update Bill VanBruggen**

There is a committee recommendation to the SWCG for removal of the Helicopter numbering system call signs (H-312, 315, etc.) and use tail numbers as call signs both within the area and outside the area. SWCG agrees to eliminate the helicopter numbering system and create a memo for dissemination.

**Action Item: SWCG Memo for elimination of the helicopter numbering system and remove numbering scheme from the Mob Guide.** Dale Glenmore Kenan Jaycox Feb 15, 2014

Other recommended Mobilization Guide language was reviewed to include VLAT Base activations/deactivations, and use of ASTAT Teams. This new language will be in the 2014 Mob Guide.

### **SWCC Budget Planning**

SWCG agreed that SWCC needs to move forward with a workload study and establish standards for Agency contributions and staffing. Initially, the FireOrg program will be used. The SWCG will also be taking a look at what products and services SWCC provides and what the SWCG expectations of SWCC are.

**Action Item:** Collect data and use FireOrg to initially look at SWCC workload and fair share contributions.

Kenan Jaycox April 15, 2014

### **Preparation for SWCG Meeting with ICs on Wednesday Jan 22, 2014**

Important items to discuss with ICs:

- Review selection criteria for selection of members
- Provide venue for open dialog related to Yarnell/Holiday incidents
- Finalize plans for IMT Meeting in February
- Discuss the top IC issues in 2013

### **January 22, 2014**

SWCG, Ops Committee, and ICs met and went over the expectations of the IMT Selection Meeting.

- Reviewed the IMT Selection Priorities with the ICs that were discussed yesterday
- Reviewed issues/successes from the ICs in 2013
  - Social media can be a challenge, but also contribute to success. We just need to recognize it and prepare for it. It cannot be stopped. A huge success was the NIFC Gov Delivery which allowed for the IMT to distribute information quickly across numerous social media platforms.

- **Action Item: SWCG to put out memo (an edited re-issue of the memo a couple of years ago) on sensitivity of social media and notifications** Loren Derosear March 2014
- **Action Item: Clay Templin to get more information on the NIFC Gov Delivery system for social media and distribute.**
- Numerous assignments this last year occurred at less than “full teams” where the team was built to match the needs of the incident.
  - Bill VanBruggen – would like to see a “minimum” composition standard for when an IMT is ordered (Short IMT minimum in the Mob Guide).  
**Action Item: SWCG agreed for each liaison to take this back to the Zones and Agency Administrators and communicate this minimum (i.e. all C&G including a DPIC and 2 OSC’s) ALL – Spring 2014**
- Many assignments for the IMTs were discussed and most all ICs had positive experiences both within and outside the GACC.
- Reidy Silver fire success was bringing in a couple of NIMO personnel to help with Planning and risk assessments.
- Pierson recommending that our T-3 ICs attend the annual AAR. Would benefit them as some of our T-3 Teams are taking on more and more complex incidents.
- Issues are ongoing with some vendors on National Contracts receiving poor performance evaluations, but continue to go out on assignments. This issue needs to be followed up on with the National IBPA contract POC for this resource.
  - **Action Item: contact Anne Weiskircher to discuss this issue and see if there has been resolution.** Fred Hernandez March 2014
- Pruett Small gave an update/AAR on coordination of the memorial for Granite Mountain IHC from an IC perspective.
- The group also discussed many aspects of the Yarnell Hill incident related to how we move forward into the 2014 fire season.
  - **Action Item: SWCG to issue the annual Letter of Leader’s Intent and focus on resiliency of personnel in addition to other SWCG items wants to emphasize.** Cal/Hector/possibly Chuck Maxwell to bring some info into current conditions, expected fire behavior, etc. Feb 2014

### **2014 IMT Meeting(s)**

Discussion occurred as to whether to have an IMT Meeting this year. Last year it was limited to 10 C&G members per team, but each IMT still got their whole team together at a later date. For this year, it was agreed that there would not be one larger IMT Meeting. Each IMT will have their own meeting for a day and the SWCG will send 1 or 2 representatives.

**SWA Type 1 Team 1/2 Templin/Sciacca (combined)**      March 27 in Glendale Training Center

SWCG Attendees: Kelly Castillo/Leon Ben/Dave Geyer

**SWA Type 2 Team 3 Day**

March 26 Prescott

SWCG Attendees: Leon Ben/Dale Glenmore/Bill VanBruggen

**SWA Type 2 Team 4 Reidy**

March 5 Flagstaff (Highlands Fire Dept.)

SWCG Attendees: Loren Derosear/Brent Woffendin/Cal Pino

**SWA Type 2 Team 5 Nieto**

Feb 19 Albuquerque

SWCG: Hector Madrid/Bill VanBruggen/Loren Derosear/Donald Griego

**SWCC Update** Kenan Jaycox

- Reminder that IMT Members should status themselves as Available Local
- Reviewed the process of how the IMT2 rotation will work. There are no geographic affiliations and IMT2s will be assigned according to a first in first out rotation.
- Made the group aware of a National effort to have every IHC Crew report status to NICC via phone, email, or text. NMAC is trying to get a better picture of IHC status nationally.
- Encouraged the use of T-2 and T-2 IA crews where appropriate as IHC crews are a finite resource.
- The CAT Team program will continue and SWCC will strive to assign COMT personnel to assist IMTs in setting up Communications in the early stages of an incident.
- Tanker 10 Company (2 DC-10 Airtankers) are now based out of ABQ. The 3 bases we can operate out of are IWA (minimal set up time), ROW (1-2 day set up time), and ABQ (could take up to 7 days set up time).
- CISM Program continues to progress. Just held a training last week and bringing a lot of good folks into the program. Will also make efforts to educate the line officer community on what CISM is and what it isn't.
- The SWCG and ICs agreed to keep the MAC Group meetings at 1500 again this year.

**Action Item:** Engage the Incident Business Committee on the rental guidelines to look for possible solutions for T-2IA and T-2 crew transportation needs (off-road use, etc.) Kenan Jaycox/Leon Ben March 2014

**Action Item:** Get the Type 2 Crew Handbook updated and published for 2014. Dale Glenmore Type 2 Crew Committee April 2014

**IMT Member Selections** January 22 (pm) – January 23, 2014

All IMTs selected members according to the selection priorities. For those members who applied in ICAP, they will be notified of selection (or non-selection) from the ICAP system. Those members who did not get an application in ICAP but were needed to fill a vacancy, the IC's will get supervisory approval emails to the Ops Committee.

**Priority Trainees**

The SWCG, Ops, and ICs agreed to go ahead and let priority trainees occupy other primary IMT positions, but recognize that a priority trainee is deemed to be a critical need and we need to move forward with getting them good quality assignments. A draft priority trainee list was started but the ICs need to more time to compile the complete listing.

**Action Item:** IC’s compile priority trainees and return to Kenan by Feb 15, 2014. Kenan will compile and get master list to SWCG and Ops for review.

**FDNY Personnel on SWA IMTs**

The Southwest is striving to use within area personnel to the extent possible.

**Action Item:** Brent Woffinden is drafting a letter to the Eastern Area on the declining membership of FDNY personnel on Southwest IMTs.

**IMT Computers**

Bea Day – Computers are an issue for the IMTs. IC’s would like SWCG to look for a solution. The Great Basin was piloting a project (MIMIT) so we will see where that’s at and try to find a solution.

**Action Item: Check on the status of the MIMIT project and report back to SWCG and follow-up with ICs.** Kelly Castillo March 2014

The IMT websites (previously IMT Center, but now Lessons Learned) need updating with IMT names and current rosters.

**Action Item: Nancy Moore will talk to them to find out how they are updated and follow-up with IC’s. And also find out if IMTs are allowed to set up their own websites.** February 2014

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	
Aviation	
Dispatch	
Fire Planning	
- WFDSS	
Incident	

Business	
Info & Prevent	
NMICG	
Operations	
- Type 1 Crew	
- Type 2 Crew	
Communications	
Predictive Serv	
Training	

<b>Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports</b>	
Taos	
Santa Fe	
Albuquerque	
Pecos	
Gila/Las Cruces	
Northern Arizona	
Central West	
White Mountain	
Southeast	

<b>Agency Reports</b>	
US Forest Service	
BLM AZ	
BLM NM	
Nat Park Service	
Fish & Wildlife Svc	
BIA - Southwest	
BIA - Western	
BIA - Navajo	
AZ State	
NM State	
SWCC	