



## **Southwest Coordinating Group**



**November 22, 2004**

**Directed to:** Southwest Wildland Firefighting Agencies

**From:** Southwest Coordinating Group

**Topic/Issue:** ROSS Self Status Update

Fiscal year 2005 will mark the third year of utilizing the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) for the mobilization of firefighting resources. The program has seen significant changes and updates, and is working well for the Coordination System. Beginning March 1, 2005, the Southwest Area will implement the next stage of ROSS, individual personnel entering their current availability status.

At the last Southwest Coordination Group Meeting it was recommended and agreed by all Agencies present that the Geographic Area was ready to continue moving forward with the next stage of ROSS. For the 2005 fire season all Southwestern Area fire qualified individuals will need to begin entering and maintaining their own status in ROSS. Currently this is being handled differently across the Southwest Zones; individuals doing their own in some places, and dispatch offices doing it for them in others. It is our intent that by individuals being responsible for maintaining their own status, it will standardize practices in the Southwest, and will also be one more step toward the ROSS program performing the way it was intended.

The 2005 Southwest Mobilization Guide direction for ROSS data entry will be that individual overhead will be responsible for their own "status," and engines, crews, and AD's status will still be entered by the responsible Dispatch Office. Individuals will be responsible for gaining supervisory concurrence prior to entering their status.

The Southwest Coordination Center has compiled a set of instructions to aid personnel in this process. These instructions will be reviewed at the Southwest Area dispatch workshop in January 2005, and then made available to everyone on the Southwest website.

Please feel free to contact Southwest Coordination Center Director, Dugger Hughes with any questions.

**/s/ William C. Waterbury**

William C. Waterbury, 2004-2005 Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group