

SOUTHWEST OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CHARTER

(October 14, 2016)



I. Authority

This committee is chartered by the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) under terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding for Operation of the Southwest Coordinating Group (2013-2018)*. This charter sets forth guidelines and procedures by which the Southwest Operations Committee, hereafter referred to as the "Committee", shall operate. The Committee is so named because of its coordination responsibilities of several standing Southwest operations related sub-committees.

II. Mission Statement

"Working together to enhance the interagency coordination of wildland fire operations to enable safer, more efficient and cost effective wildland fire management in the Southwest Geographic Area".

III. Objectives

- Promote fire-fighter safety.
- Utilize and advance interagency solutions for management of wildfires in accordance with the Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Policy, February 13, 2009.
- Reduce the risk and cost of wildland fire operations through, better fire detection, effective fire resource use and fire communications.
- Assist with interagency incident management team makeup, coordination, and oversight.
- Focus on improved training and active mentoring to promote fire management leadership.
- Encourage and utilize innovative technologies, tools, and active interagency coordination.

IV. Membership

Membership of the Committee shall consist of:

- A. Fire management representative(s) from the following agencies within the Southwest Geographic area with interest, expertise or experience in providing or applying Wildland Fire Operations:
 - US Forest Service – Southwest Region
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Southwest Region
 - Bureau of Land Management - New Mexico
 - National Park Service - Intermountain Region
 - Bureau of Land Management - Arizona
 - Arizona-Department of Forestry and Fire Management
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Navajo Region
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Western Region
 - New Mexico State Forestry Division
- B. Southwest Area Coordinating Group liaisons as designated by SWCG
- C. Ad Hoc Members, Task Group Representatives and Technical Advisors, as needed

V. Officers

The Committee shall have the following officers:

- a. Chair
- b. Vice Chair (vice chair will take over role if chair is vacant)

The Committee Officers shall serve two years and the positions should rotate among the agencies. The rotation order may be changed by Committee vote if necessary. Standing Agency Rotation for the determination of Officers is defined in the Committee Operational Procedures document. The Chair has responsibility for maintaining the Southwest Operations Committee web page on the SWCG website, for facilitating meetings and business of the group. The Vice Chair will act as the Chair when the Chair is unavailable.

VI. Key Responsibilities and Duties

The Committee may receive action items or tasks from three sources; the SWCG, self-generated by members of the Committee, or issues from other SWCG committees. Primary responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

- A. Advise the SWCG on area-specific interagency actions concerning fire ground safety, with emphasis on communications, fire equipment and tactical application and integration of interagency resources.
- B. Advise the SWCG on area-specific interagency strategies and techniques to reduce the risk and cost of wildland fire operations activities within the Southwest Area.
- C. Advise the SWCG on interpretation of agency policy and direction for interagency application in matters pertaining to wildland fire operations.
- D. Establish, implement and assure standards for Incident Command System issues.
- E. Task Groups will be formed as necessary to work on specific tasks outlined by the

committee and will be sunset when the tasks are complete. Specific tasks for each task group will be detailed in the Committee Operational Procedures document.

- F. Coordinate and promote research and development related to wildland fire operations.
- G. Provide advocacy of new techniques, practices, and procedures which facilitate more effective and safe interagency wildland fire operations in the Southwest.
- H. Overall coordination and leadership of the following sub-committees: Southwest Interagency IHC/Type 1 Crew Sub-Committee, and Southwest Interagency Type 21A/ Type 2 Crew Sub-Committee.
- I. The Southwest Operations Committee will provide support to all interagency fire assets and be a conduit to elevate issues and/or institute change that needs to be presented to the Southwest Coordinating Group.
- J. Assist in the nomination, selection, and coordination of the SW Interagency Incident Management Team processes as delegated by SWCG.

VII. Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least twice a year at a site to be selected at the previous meeting. Meetings are open to interested parties within the wildland fire management community. Additional conference calls will be arranged as needed. Five (5) Committee members, of whom one will be a State member, shall constitute a voting quorum. Voting by correspondence is permissible if topics are referred to the members by the Chair. A Committee member can request additional meetings or teleconferences if the need should arise.

VIII. Special Circumstances

This Charter and the standing Committee shall remain in effect until amended by the Committee or by the Southwest Coordinating Group. Additional Operational Procedures shall be promulgated by the Committee as needed.

Recommended By and Date:

 11-10-16

Greg Valdez, Chair
Southwest Operations Committee

Approved By and Date:

 11/10/16

Loren DeRosear, Chair
Southwest Coordinating Group