



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – May 19, 2016

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG Meeting/IC Selection	PHX BIA Western	September 27-28
SWCG Meeting/IC AAR	ABQ - USFS RO	October 12-13
SWCG Meeting/Dispatch Workshop	Santa Fe, NM	November 1-3 (SWCG on 3 rd)
SWCG/IMT Selections	ABQ USFS RO	January 18-19, 2017
SWCG/IMT Meeting	AZ - TBD	February 7-9, 2017
SWCG/LFML Panel	PHX BLM NTC	April 10, 2017

Attendance			
X	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo	X	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore
X	BLM New Mexico – Hector Madrid	X	AZ State Forestry - Jeff Whitney/John Truett
X	FS – Ryan Whiteaker (phone)	X	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
X	NPS Intermountain – Jeff Hickerson	X	SWCC - Kenan Jaycox
X	FWS Southwest – Loren Deroser	X	BIA Western – Carlos Nosie
X	BIA Southwest – Cal Pino		

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Review

Type 3 Incident Management Team Guidance (Out of Zone or GA)

Hector summarized the document from the Operations Committee and also the AZSF edits/suggestions. SWCG recommending removing any standards that apply to within zone assignments.

Team Size

SWCG agreed that IMT3 size for out of Zone assignments would be limited to 12, inclusive of trainees.

SWCG Decision Trainees

The receiving unit needs to be involved early on as to using their own trainees first, but there could be times where priority trainees on the IMT3 and this communication needs to occur with the receiving unit.

SWCG Decision on Qualifications

NWCG 310-1 and Red Book

The Southwest will follow the minimum standards outlined in these 2 documents. IMT3 members for wildland response would not be required to carry the new “all-risk” type 3 qualifications.

Implementation Date

AI: Draft final document from Madrid on 6/03. Distribute to the Zone Reps, comment back by 6/08. Final guidance to everyone by 6/15.

Incident Business Management Committee - Hickerson

Buying Teams

The Southwest had trouble with getting a second BUYT together for 2016. Ultimately, the decision from the Incident Business Committee was to stand down the second team. No second team leader was available and/or qual'd. Recommends SWCG being more involved in the advertisement, selection process, to include expectations. Also need to add the BUYT positions to the Priority Trainee process.

AI: SWCG will re-task the Incident Business Committee with the BUYT process, take a look at the charter, and establish a process very similar to how the Operations Committee is involved with Southwest IMTs. Carlos/Leon will provide SWCG with the GB charter which could help. SWCG is also interested in feedback of how the BUYTs are doing performance wise.

The FS has a higher level of warrant authority for the BUYL position. DOI and the states follow the 310-1 which has a lower level of authority for the BUYL, and as long as anyone within the team has the higher level is sufficient. FS NIFC Incident Business is aware of the issue.

AI: Hickerson as the liaison to the IBC will engage the IBC and report back prior to next SWCG Meeting.

AI: Dale Glenmore will also take the warrant authority issue/differences between DOI and FS to CGAC on the next call.

Initial thoughts from SWCG would be to increase the number of teams we have in the Southwest and focus on successional planning and develop more teams. The number of 5 was mentioned by 2018 as an initial thought.

Air Ambulance Frequencies

VMED 28 and 29 implementation memo was issued from SWCG. There has still been some issues of certain group of individuals not knowing about it. The states will continue to reach out and notify the FDs. The FS will also ensure the FAOs are aware as well. Some of the Air Ambulance companies have been really hard to get ahold of as well.

AI: Whiteaker will re-send the SWCG Memo to the IMTs and SWCG personnel need to remain diligent in getting the word to all parties.

What about non-wildland fire disciplines?

AI: SWCG will engage the Communication and Aviation Committees in the fall on this topic and agree that this needs much more discussion before deciding one way or the other.

North NM IDOP

AI: The draft memo from SWCG was approved and will be disseminated once the FS reports back with Union confirmation/notification.

SW Area Predictive Services

SWCG is committed to outline what is expected from SWCC PS and products to provide.

SWCC PS needs to focus on bringing others in and train to build some depth, but is not an action item at this point. Will let any new processes get in place first.

Chuck Maxwell had provided a briefing paper to the SWCG regarding the instability of many aspects that go into the issuance of an accurate 7 Day SFP Product. Another option (SimuAWIPS) has come to light and involves partnering with the RMCC which allow more consistent data streams and accessibility for SWCC PS Staff. SWCG decided to move forward with the purchase of this new capability.

AI: FWS will work with Chuck on the fiscal part of it for the first year, then it can be rotated annually.

Southwest Geographic Area Structure Protection Policy

SWCG Reviewed the NRCG Structure Protection document and agrees with the NRCG and that the document was written very well.

AI: Subset of SWCG will review the document and provide any edits by May 27 and the intent would be to get it in place for this fire season. Hickerson, Castillo, Whiteaker, and Truett will be the subset of SWCG for this.

Priority Trainees as part of the Initial IMT Roster

AI: Future Agenda Item at IC AAR, get feedback on how it worked sending PTs as part of the initial roster.

SWCG Representation at Committee and Zone Meetings

Need to re-emphasize need for SWCG Presence at all Zone and Committee Meetings. If not available, ensure you reach out to other SWCG members to fill in. **AI:** SWCG Liaisons need to ensure they are part of the mailing lists. **AI:** Make sure the Zone Liaisons are correct on SWCC website.

Bin Items

State Agreements AZ/NM

Both states are on extensions for the Master Agreements. The new agreements had some nuances/improvements and are currently under review. There is a forthcoming national template under review of DOI solicitors so some agencies are fine with extending existing agreements until it's approved. SWCG agrees that both states should not be doing new agreements in the same year.

AI: Loren will get with Larry Sutton NMAC Rep, and Dale Glenmore will bring to CGAC.

ATGS Trainees

There's been some issues at times with roles of SWCC vs GATR vs Agencies for ATGS Priority Trainee assignments.

AI: Kenan and Kelly will get something scheduled with Kris/Patrick/Jake/Nancy to coordinate how it will work.

US/Mexico Agreement

Recent fires have occurred in Southern AZ and have crossed the border. La Sierra being the most recent. The AOP for 2016 has not been signed yet (allows for crossing the border, etc.). Kelly has been working through OWF to engage the Mexico side to get in place.

AI: Gordy Sachs would also be a good contact for the FS side Whiteaker.

IC Council re-formation will be an agenda topic at the IC AAR.

SWA GATR

The FS has hired Jake Nuttall into the Regional Training and Workforce Development position. SWCG discussed whether Jake would become the official GATR (he has been acting).

AI: The SWCG Handbook for 2017 needs to reflect that the SWCG has the authority to select the GATR, term, etc.

AI: SWCG will issue a memo identifying Jake Nuttall as the GATR for 2016.

SWCC Agreement

SWCG agreed that an agreement needs to be in place. Kenan will use the GBCC/RMCC one as a starting point. A draft document will be produced by Kenan for review in November at the SWCG Meeting.

AI: April 10 LFML SWCG Panel

Review Notes and Assign Tasks

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	No updates at this time.
Aviation	Kelly - Been having calls regularly. The only issue has been the VMED information getting disseminated. All EU SEATs are on board and available.
Dispatch	Weekly calls, working on the Dispatch Workshop plans. Finished the Financial Plan tasking.
Fire Planning	No meetings or calls. Dia Fenka is new WFDSS planner for AZS. Can the committee (Harold) be disbanded? Or should it be a Decision Support Committee and not a Planning Committee? Yes, SWCG agrees. AI(s): Jaycox/Whiteaker/Palmer meet with Maxwell, Riggs to meet and identify potential membership.
- WFDSS	See above.
Incident Business	Working on engaging utility companies to provide satellite and IT services quicker for IMTs. The IMTs would like to have IT equipment that they can carry with them. Estimates are about 2500 per team. The IMTs need to give the SWCG a proposal and be more specific.
ICAC	
Info & Prevent	Been some new members and getting everything updated. No face to face last several seasons, but planning on getting one scheduled. Monthly calls and restrictions coordination, however none in place yet.
NMFMC	Updated charter last November. Nothing else to report.
Operations	Continued work on the IMT3 items. Charter Updated. VMED frequency work.
- Type 1 Crew	
- Type 2 Crew	
Communications	2016 Radio Frequency Guide is out. Working on the VMED freq dissemination. Need participation from BIA and FWS.
Predictive Svc	Will disband and be part of the new Decision Support Committee.
Training	Kelly - Having conference calls every third Thursday of the month. They are developing cadre for LFML course which will be April 10, 2017 at the BLM NTC in PHX. Jeff Whitney will be the SWCG

	Liaison to the Training Committee. Tiffany Fralie is the new Chair, the GATR is the permanent vice Chair. Next face to face will be Oct 11-14, 2016.
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Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports	
Taos	Dispatch will be moving into County Bldg in Taos. Contract is in place.
Santa Fe	Have not met recently. No report.
Albuquerque	Call last week. Three areas were in restrictions, but now lifted. Vacancies are being filled. SW BIA FOS and Fire Program Analysis positions. SPA FMO position has closed. Very light IA. IMT3 avail.
Pecos	MAC Exercise conducted. Good coordination of training. PEZ IMT3 has had a few assignments. Good VMED frequency coordination.
Gila/Las Cruces	No report at this time. The new Asst CM BLM at Silver City is Luis Castillo.
Northern Arizona	IMT3 is available. Restrictions coordination calls happening.
Central West	Weekly restrictions calls. No other updates.
White Mountain	Jeff Whitney will be the new Liaison and engage with them.
Southeast	Weekly calls initiated. No restrictions planned at this time. Zone IMT3 assigned to La Sierra. Damon McRae AZ-GID is the new chair.

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	No Agency Reports at this Meeting
BLM AZ	
BLM NM	
Nat Park Service	
Fish & Wildlife Svc	
BIA - Southwest	
BIA - Western	
BIA - Navajo	
AZ State	
NM State	
SWCC	