



Southwest Coordinating Group



To: Agency Administrators, Type 2 Team Incident Commanders, Team Board Chairs, and Center Managers

From: Chair – Southwest Coordinating Group

Date: July 9, 2007

Prepared by: Hector Madrid, Donald Griego, Richard Nieto, Mark Kaib

Subject: Management of Southwest Type 2 Incident Management Teams (IMT's)

Background:

Historically, the Southwest Geographic Area had one team per zone and in some cases two teams per zone. Currently the Southwest is able to host two Type 1 IMT's, one Wildland Fire Use Team, four Type 2 IMT's and one Type 2 Short Team (AZ State). At present there is a trend toward fewer people being interested or available to participate on IMT's. National trends suggest that we may have even fewer IMT's and team members available in the future.

In the past each respective zone had a designated Three Tier Dispatch Center. Through the combining or relocating of dispatch centers in the southwest, some zones may now operate with more than one dispatch center. Thus dispatching and management of an IMT through one zone and one dispatch center is not as straight forward as it once was.

Issue:

Currently Southwest Type 2 IMT's (with the exception of the AZ State IMT) are managed by their respective zone boards unless the Southwest Preparedness Level (PL) is at PL-4 or 5, or if the Type 2 IMT's are available for assignments in other Geographic Areas. The composition of the team is generally comprised from the zone area. The original intent was for a local/zone IMT to respond to incidents within or in proximity to their respective zone(s).

Most Geographic Areas outside the Southwest manage Type 1 and 2 IMT's at the Geographic Level through the Geographic Area Coordinating Group to enhance effectiveness and efficiencies throughout the Geographic Area.

Recommendations:

We propose a comprehensive review for the Southwest Geographic Area be conducted to explore the potential to improve incident management efficiencies and effectiveness through SWCG management of Type 2 IMT's at all preparedness levels.

1. A small interagency sub-committee will be assembled with representation from:
 - a. BLM NM State FMO - Hector Madrid
 - b. NM State Forestry FMO - Donald Griego
 - c. USFS R-3 Fire & Aviation Operations - Richard Nieto
 - d. FWS Southwest Region, Deputy Regional Fire Management Coordinator– Mark Kaib
 - e. Zone Chair (TBA)
 - f. SW Type 2 Incident Commander (TBA)
 - g. Agency Administrator (TBA)
2. Sub-committee will research the following:
 - a. Composition of Type 2 Teams – how much is local?
 - b. Are Type 2 Teams mobilized *mostly* locally (within zone area) or Geographically?
 - c. Current team guidelines addressed in their charters and/or handbooks.
 - d. Current dispatch, management, recruitment, and team member participation/availability limitations to Type 2 IMT's.
3. Sub-committee will solicit input from SW Type 2 Incident Commanders, Zone Chairs, Center Managers, Agency Administrators, and the SWCG.
4. Sub-committee will research how other Geographic Areas manage teams and research which ones made a transition from zone/state teams to Geographic Area teams.
5. Sub-committee will report back to SWCG in the fall of 2007 to discuss findings and recommendations.

If you are interested in commenting on this proposal, please forward your comments to task group chair Hector Madrid (hmadrid@nm.blm.gov), or any of the above listed members, by July 23, 2007.

/s/ **Bob Lineback, Chair SWCG, 7-9-07**

PROS AND CONS
OF
SWCG MANAGING TYPE 2 IMT's

PROS	CONS
Standardization across the board for management of all Teams within the SW area. More in line with what most Geographic Areas are doing.	“If it’s not broke don’t fix it.” The SW area has used the current management of teams for a number of years and everyone understands the process.
SWCG would be more involved with IMT nomination process and selection of team members to SW Teams. Diversity of representation (fire background, interagency, and experience) on teams is desired; this would be considered in team selection. A standard set of selection factors and a rating and ranking criteria would be utilized for selection of all Incident Commander positions.	Local control and networking to recruit and retain IMT members would change if SWCG was involved in nomination/selection process.
Team Rotations would be set up for Type 2 IMT’s for SW. On any given day during the fire season Team Members, Fire Managers, Dispatch Centers, SWCG, etc... would have a clear understanding of who is available for mobilization. When IMT’s are not up on rotation, Team Members would have more latitude to Freelance as desired. This could potentially improve the allocation of limited skills (i.e. ATGS, ASGS, FBAN, ICT3, etc..). Some people may have more interest in team participation if there are designated rotations.	IMT’s would have a firm commitment to their specific rotation period. Type 2 IMT’s would fall under similar guidelines as Type I IMT’s, and Wildland Fire Use Teams for availability periods.
In some cases, local Fire Management would be at their respective home units to provide local Fire Management support to a visiting Type 2 IMT. Personnel from the same home unit could be on different IMT’s, so that office(s) would not be depleted of local fire management on a single team call out.	Under Zone IMT management, the local team has local knowledge on fuel type, burning conditions, and local politics. If SWCG managed the Type 2 IMT’s some of the local knowledge could be lost, and in some cases mobilization times would be longer than with the current system that is in place.

PROS	CONS
<p>SWCG would have annual scheduled routine for interaction with all SW Teams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall - Recruitment Notice to ICs 2. Fall – SWCC/Dispatch Center Mgrs send out nomination letter to the agencies within their zone. 3. Late Fall - SWCG Operations Committee(Interagency Reps) will forward IC recommendations to the SWCG for approval. 4. Winter - Nominations due to SWCC. List of verified nominees and forms to Committee and IC's and posted on SWCC website. 5. Winter - Operations Committee/Zone Chairs and IC's select team members. 6. Winter - IC's notify team members of selection. 7. Late Winter/Early Spring - Annual Team Meeting for all SW Teams. 8. Fire Season - SWCG will send a representative to all Team Closeouts in SW. 9. Fall - End of Season AAR with ICs and SWCG. 	<p>Without the formalized schedule for interaction with SW IMT's scheduling and attendance from all parties involved (SWCG, IMT's, Zones, Dispatch Centers, etc...) is difficult to coordinate.</p>
<p>SWCG would be involved more with performance reviews from all IMT's in SW. Follow-up on issues or concerns would take place from a regional/state level rather than a local level. Local Zone Boards would no longer have to be enforcers if any corrective action needs to take place.</p>	<p>If SWCG managed Type 2 Teams, some perceptions on oversight could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Micro-management from SWCG. <input type="checkbox"/> Not local enough to assist IMT's when problems arise. <input type="checkbox"/> Local Zone Boards would not have the interaction with IMT's they once had.
<p>Dispatch procedures would be the same for all IMT's in the SW area. All levels of dispatch – local, Geographic Level, and NICC would have a clear understanding of dispatch procedures and rotations.</p>	<p>Local Dispatch centers currently assist Type 2 IMTs with rosters and mobilization. The SWCC would become more involved with the facilitation and coordination of Type 2 IMT's in the SW.</p>
<p>Full Type 2 IMT would be dispatched to SW incidents. Presently zones have allowed teams to be mobilized without meeting National Mobilization Guide Standards.</p>	<p>Insuring that Type 2 IMT's meet the National Mobilization Guide configuration standards could potentially reduce the amount of SW Type 2 IMT's from 4 to 3.</p>

Note: *These are preliminary “Pros” and “Cons”. Input from Type 2 Incident Commanders, Zone Chairs, Agency Administrators, Center Managers, etc... will be considered.*