

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Use of FireNet.gov for Official Electronic Messaging

In 2018, NMAC issued a memorandum identifying FireNet as the official electronic messaging system in support of the broader wildland fire mission. The intent of FireNet is to eliminate the use of public email accounts and comply with Public Law 113-187 (Sec 10), which states that “no federal officer or employee may create or send a record to non-official email unless such record is copied or forwarded to an official electronic messaging account not later than 20 days after original creation of the record.” This requirement applies to local and state interagency partners when federal jurisdictions are involved. Beyond the legal mandate, use of public email systems creates security and information privacy challenges, and significantly hampers the ability to comprehensively capture operational data for reporting, intelligence and lessons learned purposes.

For the 2019 fire season, NMAC continues to support the implementation and expansion of the FireNet environment by recommending the use of FireNet by all federal Incident Management Teams (Type I,II,III) managing wildland fire events within federal jurisdictions, as well as geographic area coordination centers and federally operated dispatch centers. Due to limited availability, FireNet accounts are being prioritized for dispatch centers and IMT support. As more user accounts become available, FireNet will eventually support the collaborative needs of the intergovernmental wildland fire service. For service information, requests, and contact specifics please go to [www.firenet.gov](http://www.firenet.gov).

/s/ Dan Smith  
Chair, NMAC

