

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2018-5

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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

Annually, hundreds of public email accounts are created in support of the broader wildland fire mission. These accounts are created to fulfill multiple operational requirements within the public information, planning, logistics, aviation, resources and others roles throughout the fire community. The creation and use of these public email accounts runs counter to 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. 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 along with an inability to comprehensively capture operational data for reporting and intelligence purposes.

As a proactive step, FireNet, the fire community's email and collaboration solution, has been identified and is being implemented as the best instrument to meet business requirements and comply with legal mandates. After coordinating with the [Wildland Fire Information and Technology](#) (WFIT) FireNet Team, NMAC intends to federally require use of FireNet in Calendar Year 2019. We strongly urge your use of this new platform for the 2018 fire season.

The FireNet Team is currently developing guides, training, and business documentation on how to request these email accounts. For service information, requests, and contact specifics please go to www.firenet.gov.

/s/ Dan Smith
Chair, NMAC

