



National Interagency Fire Center
3838 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

September 9, 2005

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Groups
Area Command and Incident Management Teams

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Katrina Recovery Effort Length of Assignment

The purpose of this memo is to provide consistency in the application of the NWCG length of assignment policy during the Katrina disaster recovery effort. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) understands that responding to a natural disaster of this magnitude demands extraordinary effort and sacrifice, and that strict adherence to our length of assignment policy is not always possible. The following policy modification is being implemented in order for responders from the wildland fire community to provide a seamless effort during the first 30 days of the response.

Currently our policy allows for a standard assignment of 14 days, with an extension of up to 30 days after taking two days off between the 14th and the 21st day. For the first 30 days of the Katrina recovery effort, the NMAC is asking that Incident Management Teams monitor the health of their employees and manage for fatigue as they determine necessary.

Depending on the nature of assignment, some teams may rotate out after 14 days, while others may complete a 30 day assignment with appropriate fatigue mitigation measures.

As always, Incident Management Teams are expected to keep the health and safety of their employees as their highest priority. As our country works through this emergency, we will continue to discuss the issue with Area Command Teams and the Southern Area MAC.

/s/ Don Artley
Chair, NMAC