NMAC Correspondence #2015-25 August 25, 2015

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Incident Management Team (IMT) Rationale

Area Command, NIMO, and Incident Management Team orders must be placed through NMAC at national Preparedness Level 5. In order to facilitate prioritization of Team orders NMAC is requesting that ordering units provide some rationale and basic information about the fire, the objectives and the anticipated need into the future. This can be done via one of two mechanisms.

**1)** The preferred option is to submit either the draft or published WFDSS Decision. These should be submitted as .PDF documents with the Team request through your NMAC liaison. Following are the instructions to download the .PDF version of the draft or published decision:

1. From the Incident List, select the Incident for which you want to create a draft decision > Click View Information.
2. Click Decision. The Decision List page appears.
3. Click the radio button next to the decision, section of a decision for which you want to create a draft .pdf.
4. Click PDF. The Decision Draft PDF page appears.
5. Click:

* Create Draft to create the .pdf. A status message appears at the top of the screen. The .pdf is being processed. If the decision or report has a lot of images and text, this may take a few minutes.
* Download Draft. The download box appears where you can directly open or save the .pdf document that you just created.
* Return and return to the Decision List or Reports List page.

**2)** The second option is to utilize the “JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTING INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS, AREA COMMAND, AND NIMO TEAMS” form located at:

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/strategy/NMAC_Apx_8_IMT_Area%20Cmd_Justification.pdf>.

For this option the following are considerations that should be addressed in composing rationale for the NMAC:

Life threatening situations (firefighter or public safety)

* Evacuations currently taking place
* Advisory evacuations
* Evacuation plans in place
* Road, highway, or interstate closures

Real Property Threatened

* Number of structures, commercial and/or residences
* Number of subdivisions
* Name communities and population
* Historical significant cultural resources
* Natural resources, such as crops, grazing, timber, watershed
* Major power lines, energy sources

High Damage Potential

* Long term or short term damage potential
* Plausible impacts on community

Incident Complexity

* Multi-jurisdictional
* Fuel type, size and growth potential
* Political situations
* Severity, extreme fire behavior and fuels conditions

Written rationale will also be required for an order for an Area Command or NIMO Team. The GMAC or the GACG should address the following:

* An assessment of the risks/threats which warrant the use of an Area Command to include political sensitivities and management implications, general size of the area of responsibility and complexity.
* A description of how the Area Command Team will be used to manage the Geographic Area exists and anticipated fire workload.

All rationale should be sent to your NMAC Liaison and the NICC by E-mail and/or fax. The e-mail address is cod@blm.gov and/or fax is 208-387-5414 or 5663.

/s/ Aitor Bidaburu

Chair, NMAC