



INCIDENT OPERATIONS STANDARDS WORKING TEAM

May 14, 2008

Memorandum

To: NWCG, NWCG Working Team Chairs, Geographic Area Coordinating Groups

From: Chair, Incident Operations Standards Working Team

Subject: Transition Plan for new Position Task Books and PMS 310-1

The Incident Operations Standards Working Team has updated the Position Task Books (PTBs) and the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) to better align with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This system provides a consistent nationwide template for all-hazard emergency response and utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS) for organizing response organizations. Our competencies are identical to those being used as the national standard. The conversion to a competency based system will allow us to provide a more efficient and effective evaluation and training system.

The benefits to the wildland fire community from this effort include:

- Assurance that critical competencies are achieved.
- Focus on key skill development.
- Improved PTB administration and employee development.

The outcomes of this project include:

- PTBs focusing on key target skills.
- PTBs with less duplication.
- Fewer PTBs.
- Combined PTBs.
- Reformatted PTBs linking tasks to competencies, making them NIMS compliant.
- The ability to compare wildland fire and other emergency responder competencies in order to create crosswalks and improve coordination and cooperation.
- Revision of the PMS 310-1 to reflect these changes.

The projected completion date is May 31, 2008. At that time the new PTBs and the PMS 310-1 will be posted on the NWCG web site at <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pms.htm> and available for use.

We are making every effort to provide a smooth transition to the new PTBs and the PMS 310-1. The attached Frequently Asked Questions are designed to lay out the elements of our transition plan which may help answer some of your initial questions. Additional questions should be addressed to your agency/state IOSWT representative; contact information is located at

<http://www.nwccg.gov/teams/ioswt/ioswt.htm>. Background information on this project will also be posted on this site.

/s/ Bob Leaverton

Bob Leaverton
Chair, Incident Operations Standards Working Team
Attachment