



WHITE PAPER

February 17, 2022

TO: FIRESCOPE Board of Directors
23300 Castle Street
Riverside, CA 92518-2200

FROM: FIRESCOPE Operations Team & Task Force

SUBJECT: FIRESCOPE Forms Numbering/Suffix

REQUESTED ACTION: The FIRESCOPE Operations Team & Task Force seek Board of Director approval to implement the recommendations outlined in this FIRESCOPE Forms Numbering/Suffix White Paper.

APPROVAL: The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors approved the requested action on February 17th, 2022.

SUMMARY

FIRESCOPE has created specific Incident Command System forms that fit the needs of the California fire service. The basis of FIRESCOPE forms was to ensure an all-hazards approach to ensure applicability to the variety of incidents experienced throughout the state. The suffix of AH to indicate all-hazard has been used to identify all-hazards forms created by FIRESCOPE.

Shortly after development and subsequent adoption of the ICS-215C, Contingency Planning Analysis, several conversations with representatives of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) took place to discuss FIRESCOPE forms and how they can be folded into the national system.

Conversations focused on two subjects related to FIRESCOPE forms: The catalog numbering system and the suffix used on the forms. The FIRESCOPE numbering system, for the most part, conforms to the national standard. At issue was the creation and numbering of the ICS 215C. Because the ICS 215C was a new form and significant departure from the ICS 215 - Operational Planning Worksheet, the number conflicted with the national direction on form adaptation that states:

When agencies and organizations require specialized forms or information for particular kinds of incidents, events, or disciplines, it may be beneficial to utilize the essential data elements from a particular ICS Form to create a more localized or field-specific form. When this occurs, organizations are encouraged to use the relevant essential data elements and ICS Form number, but to clarify that the altered form is a specific organizational adaptation of the form. For example, an altered form should clearly indicate in the title that it has been changed to meet a



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specific need, such as “ICS 215A, Hazard Risk Analysis Worksheet, Adapted for Story County Hazmat Program.”

After review and careful consideration, the Task Force has made a recommendation to modify the form number.

The second point discussed is the suffix used to identify FIRESCOPE forms. When Incident Command System forms were transitioned from the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) to FEMA in 2010, the forms were redesigned and distributed as all-hazard. The following is an excerpt from the National Incident Management System, Incident Command System ICS Forms Booklet, FEMA 502-2, September of 2010:

*These forms are intended for use as tools for the creation of Incident Action Plans (IAPs), for other incident management activities, and for support and documentation of ICS activities. Personnel using the forms should have a basic understanding of NIMS, including ICS, through training and/or experience to ensure they can effectively use and understand these forms. **These ICS Forms represent an all-hazards approach and update to previously used ICS Forms.***

Because the FEMA ICS forms are designed to be all-hazard, identifying FIRESCOPE forms as all-hazard and using the AH suffix has become redundant and confusing. Nationally, the suffix used on ICS forms has been used to identify the originating organization first e.g., CG for Coast Guard, and then by function only if not an all-hazards form, e.g., WF for wildfire, HM for hazmat.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The FIRESCOPE Task Force makes the following recommendations:

- Conform to national standards for the ICS forms catalog
 - Use the existing national forms catalog and numbering assignments for use with FIRESCOPE forms
- Rename the existing ICS Form 215C to ICS Form 232 aligning with national standard
 - Complete the renaming and reissue the form prior to fire season 2022
- Change the suffix used for FIRESCOPE forms from AH to FIRESCOPE
 - Review all forms, remove AH and add FIRESCOPE as the recognized suffix
- Inform FEMA and USFA of forms changes for adoption and recognition within national system for forms comparison

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Implementation of the recommendations can begin immediately. The ICS 232-FIRESCOPE as well as all forms will be reissued in the Spring of 2022 to coincide with wildland refresher training. A comprehensive review of the FIRESCOPE catalog has begun. All forms moving forward will be developed under the same guidance.



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CONCLUSION

FIRESCOPE has been the catalyst for many of the ICS national standards in existence. Continuing to conform to those standards will ensure continued credibility and use of the FIRESCOPE products. The change in suffix will make the FIRESCOPE name prominent as well as easily identifiable.

Approved: February 17, 2022