



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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NWCG Memorandum 25-003

April 07, 2025

TO: Wildfire IT Program Board

FROM: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Authoritative Source for National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Products and Materials

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that NWCG is the authoritative source for all NWCG publications, training courses, products, and other associated data.

Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

**Issue/Action:** NWCG is chartered under the Fire Executive Council (FEC) with the mission to establish comprehensive national interagency wildland fire operations standards, position standards, qualification requirements, and performance support capabilities. These capabilities include essential resources such as training courses and job aids that are designed to facilitate the effective implementation of these standards across various agencies and organizations involved in wildland fire management. As a result of this mandate, NWCG serves as the exclusive authoritative source for all materials produced by the organization, ensuring consistency and reliability in the information disseminated to wildland fire responders.

To maintain the integrity and accuracy of NWCG materials, any WFIT entity intending to modify these resources—whether it involves changing course titles, names, or other content—must coordinate with the NWCG Training Program Manager or the NWCG Program Manager prior to making any alterations. This requirement applies universally, regardless of the hosting platform, including learning portals, applications, or other digital environments. By adhering to this protocol, organizations can help prevent confusion and ensure that all wildland fire personnel receive standardized and accurate training that aligns with NWCG established practices and approved standards.

**Background and Coordination:** NWCG has recently become aware that its materials are sometimes being modified at the committee level without prior approval, which has resulted in significant confusion in the field and instances of data duplication. These unauthorized modifications can lead to inconsistencies in the information provided to wildland fire personnel, potentially impacting their training and operational effectiveness. When changes are made without the oversight of NWCG, it not only undermines the integrity of the materials but also complicates the communication of critical procedures and standards that are vital for safe and effective wildland fire management.

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.

While many entities are authorized to utilize NWCG materials, it is crucial that NWCG remains recognized as the definitive authoritative source for all related content. This recognition ensures that all users are accessing the most accurate and up-to-date information, which is essential for maintaining a unified approach to wildland fire operations. To foster this clarity and consistency, it is imperative that all stakeholders understand the importance of adhering to NWCG established practices and approved standards. By doing so, they can help preserve the integrity of the materials and support the overall mission of NWCG in enhancing interagency collaboration and operational preparedness in wildland fire management.

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**Distribution:**

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