



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-18-002

June 28, 2018

TO: Mike Cherry, Chair, NIMS Integration Committee

FROM: Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garth Fisher", is written over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: NWCG NIMS National Qualification System (NQS) Position Endorsement Process

Tasking and Deliverable: This memorandum tasks the NIMS Integration Committee Chair to coordinate the development of a NWCG endorsement process for NIMS NQS positions.

At a minimum, the NWCG endorsement process must:

- Ensure the intent of the NIMS NQS position standards are maintained.
- Establish business practices for development and integration of wildland fire specific positions and qualifications that differ from NIMS NQS qualification requirements.
- Ensure the process integrates wildland fire business systems (e.g. IQCS, IQS, ROSS/IROC).
- Recommend changes to appropriate publications for incorporating new endorsement business practices.

Coordination should include: NWCG Operations and Training Committee; NWCG Training Development Program; NWCG staff; IQCS, IQS and ROSS/IROC representatives; other pertinent stakeholders.

Please keep the Executive Board apprised on the status of this tasking by providing frequent progress updates.

The final wildland fire endorsement process is due to the NWCG Executive Board by January 15, 2019.

Background: The FEMA National Qualification System (NQS) supplements the Resource Management component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by establishing guidance and tools to assist stakeholders in developing processes for qualifying, certifying, and credentialing deployable emergency personnel. The NQS national doctrine promotes interoperability by establishing a common language for defining job titles and by enabling jurisdictions and organizations to plan for, request, and have confidence in the capabilities of personnel deployed for disasters and emergencies from other entities through mutual aid agreements and compacts.

NWCG supports the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) role of its member agencies. AHJ is the NIMS term for entities that have the authority and responsibility to develop, implement, maintain, and oversee the qualification, certification, and credentialing process within their organization or jurisdiction. AHJs include local, state, tribal, or Federal Government departments

and agencies, training commissions, NGOs, or companies, as well as local organizations, such as police, fire, public health, or public works departments. AHJs are responsible for qualifying, certifying, and credentialing personnel. AHJs are encouraged to implement qualification, certification, and credentialing processes consistent with NQS guidance to ensure their personnel are prepared to perform the responsibilities associated with their specific incident-related positions.

This NIMS Integration Committee is the NWCG's primary lead in developing the standards and processes that will enable the NWCG members to support NQS doctrine and contribute to national emergency preparedness and response.

Contact: If you have any questions please contact Deb Fleming, NWCG Coordinator at 208-387-5745 or email dlfleming@blm.gov.

Distribution:

NWCG Executive Board

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