

# National Wildfire Coordinating Group Operations and Training Committee

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**Date:** 10 July 2019 OTC-2019-09  
**To:** Kyle Cannon, Fire Behavior Subcommittee Co-chair  
Tami Parkinson, Fire Behavior Subcommittee Co-chair  
**From:** Steve Shaw, Chair, Operations and Training Committee  
**Subject:** OTC Intelligence Task Team

The Operations and Training Committee (OTC) has reviewed the work of the Incident Intelligence Task Group that was submitted to OTC in April 2019. At current time, OTC is not accepting the main recommendation of adding a Strategic Planning Branch Director to the *NIMS Wildland Qualification System Guide*, PMS 310-1.

OTC concurs that a lack of a centralized methodology to utilize, interpret, and collect incident intelligence exists. However, OTC feels too many foundational elements remain unanswered to proceed with the creation of a new position. Raised concerns included:

- Planning positions continue to be challenging to fill nationwide,
- Alignment of new positions with Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL), Operations Section Chief (OSC), Situation Unit Leader (SITL), and Planning Section Chief (PSC), and
- Scope and definitions of incident intelligence/fire environment data and the section responsible for the data.

OTC recognizes the need to first allow all committees to complete Incident Position Descriptions (IPD). This process should help to display overlapping responsibilities and further define what gaps exist within our current structure.

The additional recommendations that were submitted by the task group are supported by OTC. These recommendations will be further discussed and appropriately tasked to the Incident Planning Subcommittee and/or M-581 and M-582 Steering Committees.

OTC greatly appreciates the work of this task group, the persistence to evaluate the identified issues, and the recommendation of possible solutions. The work will help to further conversations and processes to ensure wildland fire is able to utilize the vast amount of generated intelligence data and properly work in harmony with technology.

Please consider the work of the Intelligence Task Group complete at this time. Thank you for your efforts and your drive to improve the response to wildland fire incidents by NWCG member agencies.

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact Steve Shaw, [srshaw@blm.gov](mailto:srshaw@blm.gov), or 208-387-5722, or your agency representative on OTC.

Respectfully,



Chair, Operations and Training Committee

Cc: Sean Cross, NWCG Program Manager  
Garth Fisher, NWCG Executive Board Chair  
Jeff Hughes, NWCG Training and Development Program  
Deb Fleming, NWCG Coordinator