

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Letter L2022-02

March 15, 2022

To: National Incident Management Organization Incident Commanders

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Advisory Role to the Incident Management Response Roundtable

Purpose: This letter clarifies expectations of the Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR), formerly known as Incident Management Remote Response, by the National Interagency Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) and identifies NMAC as the entry point for IMRR recommendations/requests into the wildland fire governance system. NMAC will evaluate recommendations/requests and provide them to the appropriate governing body through formal correspondence.

Key facts:

- As an unchartered group without formal oversight, IMRR's role within the national wildland fire interagency community has been unclear.
- Continued efforts to establish standards, processes, and sharing of forms through IMRR efforts is causing confusion on what is approved and required through established governance boards and groups.
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards establish common practices and requirements that enable efficient and coordinated national interagency wildland fire operations. These standards include guidelines, procedures, processes, best practices, specifications, techniques, and methods.
- While the intentions of IMRR have been well meaning, duplication of on-going NWCG efforts have occurred resulting in confusion and mixed messaging to the extent that NWCG has formally corresponded with the field to course-correct some IMRR actions.

Background: "Incident Management Remote Response" groups were formed in the spring of 2020 as result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for rapid communication sharing and consistent mitigation practices across all Geographic Areas. The groups are led by members of the National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) and are divided into functional areas (planning, safety, command, etc.). Each functional area hosts regular calls with the field with the intent of discussing on-going issues and working to identify viable solutions. No formal mechanism existed for IMRR to provide input or make recommendations for systemic change to the appropriate entities charged with managing the interagency incident response system.

In the fall of 2021, NMAC agreed that IMRR provides those in the field an opportunity to initiate and bring forth ideas that may be of benefit to the entire fire community and agreed to serve in an advisory role to IMRR, allowing IMRR an official "entry point" into the interagency wildland fire governance system.



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Discussion: NMAC will regularly communicate with IMRR and will ensure any requests or recommendations for change from IMRR are evaluated and, if appropriate, provided to the pertinent established governance body.

To appropriately address duplication of effort, minimize confusion for the field, and ensure work is aligned with established interagency governance, IMRR must avoid efforts that conflict with NWCG responsibilities and authorities.

Next steps: NMAC asks that IMRR provide periodic updates to NMAC and provide formal written recommendations/requests for change to NMAC when necessary. NMAC will coordinate with IMRR organizers to ensure briefings on the topic (s) are provided to NMAC. NMAC will evaluate recommendations/requests and provide them to the appropriate governing body through formal correspondence. To facilitate coordination, NMAC asks IMRR leads to identify an individual (s) to coordinate with on updates and requests to/from IMRR.

NMAC looks forward to working and coordinating with IMRR.

Ken Schmid,
Chair, National Multi- Agency Coordinating Group

CC:

- Chair, Fire Management Board
- Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board
- Chair, National Incident Commanders/Area Commanders Council

