

**REPORT TO THE NWCG EXECUTIVE BOARD
FOR THE NWCG-USFA TYPE 3
ALL HAZARD INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM
DEPLOYMENT PILOT PROGRAM**

AUGUST 2011



Introduction

The United States Fire Administration was tasked in 2003 to develop an all hazard incident management team program, which could be utilized at the local, state, and tribal level for management of complex incidents that were beyond the “normal” management capacity of first responders. The program incorporates all response disciplines (fire, law enforcement, EMS, public works, etc.) as a concept of incident management utilizing information, equipment, and people as the primary resource components. While this program was initially developed to address responses to incidents at the local, state, or tribal level, it has now expanded in that these teams are requested and deployed across the United States. The program is documented within the US Forest Service’s Quadrennial Fire Review, and is being proposed as a component of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s (NWCG) Incident Management Team succession planning program.

This pilot program under the direction of the NWCG’s All Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Oversight Working Group is tasked to evaluate the USFA Type 3 AHIMT program, its doctrine and processes, and possible integration into a national deployment model. This report, prepared for the NWCG Executive Board is based on multiple AHIMT and individual ICS position assignments and deployments.

Synopsis

Between August 2010 and August 2011, members of the pilot USFA Type 3 AHIMTs were deployed to incidents across the country, including wildland fires, floods, tornadoes, and planned events. Assignments were coordinated by USFA Staff in conjunction with the NICC at NIFC, and the GACCS. Additionally some additional assignments were initiated and paid for through EMAC requests state to state. Assignments were typically 5-7 days with some individual ICS Position assignments being 10-14 days. The overwhelming assessment by both hosting agencies and those being deployed was extremely positive.

LOGISTICS

Pilot assignments were either initiated through USFA contacts, or from the NICC at NIFC in Boise. EMAC assignments were made state to state and USFA Staff were notified for accountability purposes. Travel for the “pilot” AHIMT was coordinated through a USFA designated contractor, and tracked by both USFA/ERSB staff at NETC as well as the AHIMT’s point of contact and the NICC.

Contractor did an excellent job in providing information to teams and individuals. Individual reimbursements were done in a timely manner with no complaints received by USFA. Teams and individuals assigned to the ICP in Merkel Texas coordinated any monetary reimbursements directly with the Texas Forest Service and their Finance/Admin Section.

PERSONNEL CHECK- IN

At status check in, difficulty was encountered with checking in “trainees” and checking out equipment by the participants. This occurred because they were not assigned overhead (“O”) numbers and the National Teams managing the incident were utilizing I-Suite Program. This was not an issue in Texas to some degree. While there were a significant number of “trainees” transitioning in and out of the Texas ICP some trainees were unintentionally “lost in the shuffle” with the following comments:

- Individual mentors not being fully briefed that they would be “having a “trainee assigned” to them
- Mentors were unsure of the compatibility of the individuals Position Task Book in relation to NWCG’s
- “Trainees” understanding the demobilization process as soon as they are briefed in at the ICP
- Better orientation to the workings/logistics of the ICP

MENTORING

Mentoring by National * IMT members was “fantastic.” The IMT Training specialists met with the pilot program trainee’s each night to assure they were getting what they needed.

One obstacle, with regard to mentoring, that was present on some deployments was the number of trainees verse the number of mentors. Some of the National Type 1/2 Teams carry their own “trainees” and hence a limited opportunity for some of the USFA Type 3 AHIMT trainees.

* This includes the Texas Forest Service who have nationally qualified and credentialed personnel on their IMTs.

VALUE OF TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS- TRAINEE COMMENTS

- “Absolutely fantastic, it was amazing to see things functioning as the book taught....honestly that doesn’t always happen.”
- “I found great value in my “training assignment”, as I was able to immediately engage with my trainer and begin working in my position.”
- “I found the Type 1 team members, and trainers very trusting and willing to allow me to work and perform the duties of my position as if I was another member of their team.”
- “The PNW 3 folks were great, perhaps even over accommodating given the amount of trainees they support.”

- Texas deployments and hospitality was exceptional.
- Ability to go to the field for Town Meetings, PIO assignments with different media outlets, and participate in OPS Briefings.
- Task Book assignments were specific and were reviewed by mentors and trainers.
- "Value of field assignments cannot be understated"

VALUE OF TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS-COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL TYPE 1/2 PERSONNEL REGARDING USFA TYPE 3 AHIMT PERSONNEL OR TEAMS

- USFA personnel were mentored by Type 1 or 2 IMT personnel and individual ICS 225 forms were completed
- USFA personnel provided OPS briefings as required
- USFA personnel who were assigned in the PIO capacity worked well with all media, TV, print, and radio- and attended Town Hall Meetings
- USFA Type 3 AHIMTs came prepared and ready to work, a valuable addition to Type 1 or Type 2 IMTs
- National IMT's were educated to the fact of the number and complexity of incidents that USFA Type 3 AHIMT had been deployed to over the last 3-5 years
- National IMT Training Specialists found the Type 3 personnel well trained and ready to proceed with their assignments
- Knowledge concerning basic rules of purchasing/contracting on incidents is lacking, long duration camps or assignments is foreign to AHIMTs and how to pay for and manage a large camp is outside their realm of understanding of what is expected and required to do this.
 - This cannot be turned over to a Buying Team or Logistics to manage without a basic understanding of financial rules and regulations to provide guidance to the other team members. I believe this is due to the fact that most if not all team members come from the operational or logistical side of the departments that participate on these teams.
- Most AHIMTs do not have an "Incident Business Management Handbook" and are not guided by one for/by their department or agency, most of this work is managed by a separate section within their department that IMT members do not have to deal with it on a daily basis and these administrative employees are not asked or invited to participate in these AHIMT's. Therefore the AHIMT's are only familiar with the wildland fire IIBMH and do not have a working knowledge of it.

TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implementation and delivery of a field training program from communication personnel at NIFC to take to the field for AHIMTs. This would assist those personnel within Logistics to interface with their national counterparts. Also to understand the ordering system and capabilities of what is available in the national cache.
- A recommendation that the Planning Section, Logistics Section, and Finance/Administration Section personnel take I-suite training for assimilation in the field with their National counterparts. While this is a “perishable skill set” and may not be utilized by the Type 3 AHIMT, on a Local response. National IMT’s utilize I-Suite for IAP development. It would also be valuable information and insight if the Type 3 AHIMT Command Staff and OSC had a baseline knowledge of I-Suites.
- A recommendation that all operational personnel (OSC, DIV/GRP Supervisor, Safety and PIO) take the basic wildland firefighting course(s), to include safety and shelter deployment capabilities. This recommendation can be spread out over multiple years as a component of an AHIMT training regimen. It is recommended that the courses be taken in the order as listed below. Additionally AHIMTs may want to recommend S-130, and S-190 which can be taken on-line. There are some State Foresters who offer these courses throughout the year.
 - G-130 Wildland Training (FFT2) for Structural Firefighters (2008) CLASSROOM (24 hours)
 - G-131 Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters (2008) CLASSROOM (9 hours)
 - G-231 Wildland Training (ENGB) for Structural Firefighters (2008) CLASSROOM (42-48 hours)
 - G-330 Wildland Training (STEN) for Structural Firefighters (2008) CLASSROOM (17 hours)
- Also recommend team and leadership training
 - S-380/381 Leadership - an all-hazards version of L-381 is currently available as *DHS CA-010- PREV Incident Leadership* in the State-Sponsored Catalog)
 - (if needed) IMT version of L-480
 - S-260 - Interagency Incident Business Management
- The NWCG/OWDC will be reviewing this report as they work on updates and revisions to the 310-1 Professional Qualifications Guide.
- The National Integration Center (NIC)/ Incident Management Working Group (IMWG) are proposing specific discipline endorsements for ICS Position Task Books. Individual Disciplines will determine those endorsements which may include those listed above, or other training, licensing or certification requirements.

Appendix A:

ICS POSITION NOMENCLATURE GLOSSARY:

IC = Incident Commander

IC (T) = Incident Commander Trainee

SOFR = Safety Officer

LOFR = Liaison Officer

PIO = Public Information Officer

PSC = Planning Section Chief

DPSC = Deputy Planning Section Chief

OSC = Operations Section Chief

DOSC = Deputy Operations Section Chief

LSC = Logistics Section Chief

DLSC = Deputy Logistics Section Chief

FSC = Finance Section Chief

DFSC = Deputy Finance Section Chief

COML = Communications Unit Leader

GISS = Geographic Information Systems Specialist (Technical Specialist)

Trainee = Does the work of the position under the auspices of a "qualified" person who then signs their Position Task Book and also does an ICS 225 (employee evaluation)

Shadowing = Following a qualified individual around watching them perform the ICS position

“O” Number = Overhead (Personnel)

“E” Number = Equipment

NOMENCLATURE GLOSSARY (CONTINUED):

IMAT = Incident Management Assistance Team

NIFC = National Interagency Fire Center

NICC = National Interagency Coordination Center

GACC = Geographic Area Coordination Center

NIC = NIMS National Integration Center

IMWG = Incident Management Working Group

Number of AHIMTs Trained-138 Number of Teams proficient to deploy-60

Listing of Pilot Teams (10): Colorado; Texas; South Carolina; Alabama; Iowa; Connecticut; Northwest Washington; National Capital Region; Phoenix; Barnstable County, Massachusetts

AHIMT Activation Synopsis to date.

Pilot* Activation/Deployment:	Where	When	EMAC, State, Local	Paid by USFA
Scott Mountain (PN Washington)*	Oregon	8/25-31/10	USFA	Yes
Wildland Fire (2-CO)*	Boulder, Colorado (Indian Gulch Fire)	3/21-27/11	State (FMAG issued)	FEMA Region VIII
Training (CT)*	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	3/14-19/11	USFA	Yes
Flooding (Iowa)*	Davenport, Iowa	4/2-as needed	State	No
Flooding (MN)	Duluth, Minnesota	4/2-as needed	State	No
Flooding (CO)*	Fargo, North Dakota	4/2-as needed	FEMA Region VIII	FEMA Region VIII
Wildland Fires (15 Teams-TX)*	Across the State	April -July 2011	State (FMAG's issued)	No
USFA Type 3 PIO Rotation*	Merkel, Texas (ICP)		USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
NCR	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	4/22-30/11	USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
Alabama	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	4/29-5/6/11	USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
Iowa	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	5/5-13/11	USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
Training (Central VA)	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	4/11-16/11	Local	No
Planned Event supporting NPS (SC)*	Ft. Sumter, South Carolina	4/15-17/11	State/NPS	No
State Exercise (SC)*	Columbia, South Carolina	4/19-22/11	State	No
State Exercise (AL)*	Mobile, Alabama	4/25-29/11	State	No
Training (SC)*	Merkel, Texas (ICP)	4/25-5/1/11	USFA	Yes
Tornados (AL)*	State of Alabama	4/28-5/3/11	State	No
Colorado*	Merkel, Texas	5/8-14/11	USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
Iowa*	Merkel, Texas	5/15-21/11	USFA/TXFS	USFA/TXFS
Wildland Fires (San Diego)	Miller & Horseshoe Fires (USFS)	5/ 26 - 6/4/11	Field Training	No - UASI
Tornado (TX)*	Joplin, Missouri	5/31- /11	EMAC - LSC	No
Tornado (MA)*	Springfield, Massachusetts	6/1 – 5/11	State	No
Wildfires (CT)*	ICP Merkel, Texas	6/5-11/11	Field Training	No - UASI
Flooding (IA)*	Missouri River	6/8-22/11	State	No
MLB All-Star Game(PHX)*	Phoenix, Arizona	7/10-15/11	State	No
NPS Planned Event (NCR* supported)	Manassas, Virginia	7/20-25/11	State/NPS	No
Flooding (CO)*	Iowa	7/24-8/1/11	EMAC	No

*Denotes USFA Type 3 AHIMT Pilot Team