

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Tasking 2021-13

June 9, 2021

To: National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Incident Management Remote Response Recommendations

In the spring of 2020, a grass roots effort began with a goal of organizing and connecting incident management practitioners to share best management practices and other advancements for incident management in a pandemic environment. This effort, known as “Incident Management Remote Response” (IMRR) sponsored a survey in the fall of 2020 to gather best management practices and recommendations for improvement from the fire community.

In the spring of 2021, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) tasked the National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council (NICACC) with compiling and organizing the survey results and providing recommendations to NMAC.

NICACC provided 5 recommendations; two of these recommendations fall under the purview of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). These summarized recommendations are:

- “Logistics 2.0”
 - o Submit the definitions of “Distributed Operations Strategy” and “Drop Point” to NWCG Glossary and update current definitions “Base” and “Camp” to logically alignment with new terms.
 - o Develop/formalize tactics to support the “Distributed Operations Strategy.”
 - o Identify and formalize the risk management discussions for “Distributed Operations Strategy.”
 - o Development of alternative, supplemental, and modified (hybrid) subsistence (shelf o stable food boxes, military rations, self-sufficient feeding systems, enhanced movement/delivery systems etc.) in conjunction with the end users (operational resources).
- On Site/Remote/Virtual Glossary Terms
 - o Establish NWCG glossary terms and associated definitions for “On Site”, “Remote”, and “virtual”.

NMAC requests that NWCG evaluate these recommendations and take appropriate action. The complete recommendation documents are attached. Please conta

Please contact Josh Simmons, Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, if you have any questions.

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

Attachment 1 – IMRR/NICACC Recommendation – Logistics 2

Attachment 2 – IMRR/NICACC Recommendation- Glossary Terms



National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council

March 15, 2021

To: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
From: National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council
Subject: Response to NMAC Tasking 2021-01 (LOGISTICS) 2.0

IMRR Finding:

In calendar year 2020 the COVID-19 virus forced us to disperse from our traditional large ICP/Base to smaller camps utilizing the “module as one” concept. In early 2020, the IMRR researched but could not find the definition of the systematic approach to support remote camps. It has been the practice for many years, but we could not find a definition and/or description of the system. The term “Distributed Operations,” borrowed from the military which parallels the distribution of troops in theaters of operation and identifies systematic coordinated support. The attempt is to define “Distributed Operations Strategy” in the NWCG glossary of terms. This will provide common terminology by utilizing existing NWCG terms (ICP, Base, Camps, Strategy, Tactics, Tasks, etc.).

Recommendation:

1. Submit the definitions of “Distributed Operations Strategy” and “Drop Point” to NWCG Glossary of Terms. Update current definitions “Base” and “Camp” to logically alignment with new terms. *(NWCG Data Management Committee)*
2. Develop/formalize tactics to support the “Distributed Operations Strategy.” These may include but are not limited to: (field Logistics, meal distribution/supplementation options, resupply workflows, camp sanitation/infrastructure, real-time operational adjustments, etc.) *(NWCG Incident and Position Standards Committee)*
3. Identify and formalize the risk management discussions for “Distributed Operations Strategy.” (Strategic mission-based risk assessment, trade off analysis, IWI implementation, etc.) *(NWCG Risk Management Committee/ Incident and Position Standards Committee)*
4. Technology and Development of alternative, supplemental, and modified (hybrid) subsistence (shelf stable food boxes, military rations, self-sufficient feeding systems, enhanced movement/delivery systems etc.) in conjunction with the end users (operational resources). *(NWCG Equipment Technology Committee)*

National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council

March 15, 2021

To: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
From: National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council
Subject: Response to NMAC Tasking 2021-01

IMRR Finding:

Language describing remote and virtual responders continue to be misunderstood and, at times, is used interchangeably. A clear distinction between the terms is required, so incident management teams can clearly delineate how incident responders staff their organizations and where they are located.

Understanding the appropriate language allows for improved solutions in ordering personnel outside of the typical on-site support. Ordering solutions will reduce workload on IMTs and dispatch centers trying to determine how to round out short staffed rosters or other support functions.

Recommendation:

There are three categories of presence/availability that apply to where incident responders work, including:

- **On-Site**
Personnel assigned to work at the Incident Command Post (ICP), or any other camp (on the fire ground), where they will be expected to interact **“in-person”** with other incident personnel on a **day to day** basis. This includes line personnel.

No additional considerations beyond typical ordering requirements for incident support personnel. Examples of incident personnel who would be considered on-site; Operational responders, IMTs, AAs and AA reps.
- **Remote**
An individual, group, or team who generally must travel to a remote location such as an office or hotel and is required to interact with incident personnel using modern technology in support of one or more incidents.
The term remote may also be used to describe individuals or functional areas assigned to an IMT in support of an incident that are working away from an ICP due to limitations in service or inadequate support for accomplishment of duties.
The Remote personnel may be located within a reasonably close proximity to the ICP, but will not share facilities (e.g. sleeping, eating, working and sanitation areas) with On-Site personnel. Any physical interaction between the Remote and On-Site personnel should be limited.

National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council

These individuals require food, lodging and transportation support considerations on resource orders. Additionally, they may require rental computers (or other technical equipment or network access) depending upon their employment status and support role. Examples of incident personnel who would/may be considered remote: Buying Teams, Area Command, Remote Incident Support Teams, Remote Situation Units, Decision Support, Special Event Teams, Functional Areas in support of IMTs.

- **Virtual**

Individuals assigned to an incident or incidents that may work independently in a location like a home or work office. No face to face interaction is expected other than modern technology interface. **These personnel may work full or part time in support of an incident.**

These individuals do not require food, lodging, or transportation requirements on resource orders. They may however require rental computers (or other technical equipment or network access) depending upon their employment status.

Recommended organization to act upon the recommendation:

Agreed upon consistent definitions should be submitted to the NWCG Glossary through the NWCG Data Management Committee.

Definitions are included in the Incident Business Handbook for on-site and remote. They may need to be re-evaluated to be consistent with these proposed definitions.