NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #60
MODIFICATION OF COURSE FORMAT FOR ICS CURRICULUM
April 21, 2004

BACKGROUND

The revision of the Incident Command System curriculum has begun. The project is divided into two groups, one for the I-100/200 revision and one for the I-300/400/401/402 revision; both groups have completed a first workshop. The subject matter experts (SME) are a diverse group including U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, New York State Emergency Management, Kern County Fire Department, California; Fire Scope, State of South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Division, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and Boulder Colorado Fire Department Wildland Fire. The combined average teaching time for the ICS curriculum is over 10 years, with most SMEs teaching more than once a year.

CURRENT STATUS

The SMEs for the ICS curriculum have recommended changing the current course material format from the modular system to the standard format that currently is used for the courses within the NWCG curriculum (see attached course structure comparison chart). In their experience the field is not using the current modular format as stand alone modules as originally developed, but as a package at each level.

The groups determined the target audiences for the levels would be as follows:
I-100 Entry level
I-200 Entry level positions on IMTs, single resource bosses, etc.
I-300 Line officers, strike team leaders, unit leaders, managers, etc.
I-400 Command & general staff, agency administrators, area commander, etc.

The current modular format is confusing and cumbersome when ordering course materials. Changing to a standard course format would eliminate multiple NFES numbers as well as provide printing cost savings. Course content flow will be easier to achieve with the standard format and reduce the current repetitive information that currently exists.

I-401 and I-402 would remain as stand alone courses and be candidates for web-based training.

RECOMMENDATION

Change the current modular format to a standard NWCG course format.

ACTION REQUIRED

Approval from the TWT of the course format change.

APPROVED / DENIED
(circle one)

SIGNATURE

Anne M. Johnson
TWT Chair

5/6/04
Date

ICS Curriculum Course Structure Comparison

Old version	New version (proposed)	Old Module Placement
I-100 Introduction to ICS	I-100 Introduction to ICS	
Module 1 – ICS Orientation	Unit 1 – Purpose of the Incident Command System (ICS)	
	Unit 2 – Basic Features of ICS	
	Unit 3 – Basic Staffing and Organization	3
	Unit 4 – Facilities	4
	Unit 5 – Common Responsibilities	6
I-200 Basic ICS	I-200 Basic ICS : ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	
Module 2 – Principles and Features of ICS	Unit 1 – Leadership and Management	2,6,7
Module 3 – Organizational Overview	Unit 2 – Delegation of Authority and Management by Objectives	
Module 4 – Incident Facilities	Unit 3 – Functional Areas and Positions	2,3,7,12
Module 5 – Incident Resources	Unit 4 – Briefings	7,9,11
Module 6 – Common Responsibilities	Unit 5 – Organizational Flexibility	5
	Unit 6 – Transitions and Transfers	3,8
I-300 Intermediate ICS	I-300 Intermediate ICS: ICS for Supervisors and Expanding Incidents	
Module 7 – Organization and Staffing	Unit 1 – ICS Fundamentals Review	
Module 8 – Organizing for Incidents for Events	Unit 2 – Unified Command	13
Module 9 – Incident Facilities	Unit 3 – Incident/Event Assessment and Agency Guidance in Establishing Incident Objectives	
Module 10 – Air Operations	Unit 4 – Incident Resources Management	10
Module 11 – Incident and Event Planning	Unit 5 – Planning Process	
	Unit 6 – Demobilization and Incident Transfer of Command or Close Out	
I-400 Advanced ICS	I-400 Advanced ICS: ICS for Command and General Staff and Complex Incidents	
Module 12 – Command and General Staff	Unit 1 – ICS Fundamentals Review for Command and General Staff	12
Module 13 – Unified Command	Unit 2 – Major Incident Management	14
Module 14 – Major Incident Management	Unit 3 – Area Command	15
Module 15 – Area Command	Unit 4 – Multi-Agency Coordination	16
I-401 Multi-Agency Coordination	I-401 Multi-Agency Coordination	
Module 16 – Multi-Agency Coordination		16
I-402 ICS for Executives	I-402 ICS for Executives, Summary	
Module 17 – ICS for Executives		17