CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 18
CREATE NEW POSITION-INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

BACKGROUND

See attached letter (To: Roger Vorce, Chair, IOSWT)

CURRENT STATUS

The subject matter experts and project leader, currently developing the Communications Unit Leader course, feel that there is not adequate prerequisite experience identified within the 310-1 to prepare an individual for the job of Communications Unit Leader. The group gave the following reasons for this statement:

1. Currently, the only prerequisite experience necessary for the Communications Unit Leader is Incident Communications Center Manager. This experience does not adequately prepare the individual to become a Communications Unit Leader.

2. The suggested prerequisite training for the positions includes Communications Equipment and Procedures, S-258, a course designed to give an individual hands on experience and setting up different types of communications equipment. This training does not deal with planning and designing a incident communications system.

3. The Communications Technician is currently listed in the Incident Command System as a technical specialist and not listed in the 310-1.

4. In the event that the communications unit leader is assigned to an incident and a communications technician is not, it is the responsibility of the unit leader to design, plan and set-up the communications system. Without the experience of the technician, the unit leader may be in jeopardy of not correctly setting-up the system. It is necessary for Communications Unit Leaders to have the basic skills and experience of a Communications Technician.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The development group for Communications Unit Leader S-358 is proposing the following two changes to the 310-1. The first is to add the position of the Incident Communications Technician and the second is to require Incident Communications Technician experience for the Communications Unit Leader position.

Establishing the Incident Communication Technician position, would expand the number of personnel available for this critical positions. A training course already exists for the position, Communications Equipment/Procedures, S-258.

The Development Group proposes the following changes and/or additions to the Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide (310-1):

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT LEADER (COML)

REQUIRED TRAINING	None
SUGGESTED TRAINING	Intermediate ICS (I-300) Dynamic Unit Leadership (S-301) Communications Unit Leader (S-358) Basic Fire Fighter (S-130)
EXPERIENCE	Satisfactory performance as a Communications Technician and as an Incident Communications Center Manager.
OTHER ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY	Incident Communications Center Manager Incident Communications Technician

The Development Group proposes that requirements be established for the Communications Technician in the 310-1.

INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN (COMT)

REQUIRED TRAINING	None
SUGGESTED TRAINING	Communications Equipment/Procedures (S-258) Basic ICS (I-200) Basic Fire Behavior (S-190) Basic Fire Fighter (S-130)
EXPERIENCE	None
OTHER ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY	None

The Development Group proposes no changes in the Incident Communications Center Manager.

This is the recommendation of the Development Group for Communications Unit Leader (S-358).

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Upon approval of the recommendation:
Add to the 310-1 the position of Incident Communications Technician to the Incident Command System.
Add to the 310-1 the requirement of prerequisite experience of Incident Communications Technician to the Communications Unit Leader.

APPROVED: WITH EXCEPTION NOTED BELOW

Rodlyn Vorce

Chair, Incident Operations Standards Working Team

Delete BASIC Fire Behavior (S-190) as Suggested Training from COMT. Requirement will be met in RADO positions