



Incident Emergency Medical Task Group Introduction Letter

June 2008

All NWCG Member Agencies:

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and those agencies involved in emergency medical services (EMS) deployment and system regulation are aware of a number of issues related to the delivery of EMS on incidents managed by participating agencies. Many unresolved challenges have been identified. Credentialing of EMS personnel and resources moving between jurisdictions, medical unit equipment standards, identification of a standard scope of practice and standard of care on incidents, maintenance of incident medical records, and provision of over-the-counter (OTC) medications are some of the areas of greatest concern.

The Incident Emergency Medical Task Group (IEMTG) has been formed under the direction of the Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) to address these challenges. The IEMTG will continue the work of the former Emergency Medical Support Group and will coordinate with the appropriate local, state, tribal, federal, and national organizations. The team will develop and recommend standards for the delivery of EMS and occupational health services on incidents managed by NWCG member agencies.

The objectives of the IEMTG include:

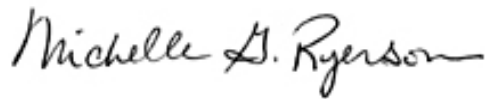
- Develop a process that ensures proper and timely notification is made to state and local EMS authorities when an incident medical unit is to be operated within their jurisdiction.
- Identify a common scope of practice for incident medical operations.
- Develop a standard of care for incident medical operations.
- Standardize the management of incident medical units, possibly through creation of an incident medical unit standard operating guide.
- Identify standardized medical equipment and supplies to be carried by EMS personnel assigned to incidents managed by NWCG member agencies.
- Standardize the management and delivery of OTC medications.
- Develop standards for contracting emergency medical services.
- Make recommendations for identifying and utilizing medical directors/advisors.
- Identify and provide model medical evacuation standards.

- Incorporate contemporary industry standards for emergency medical terminology and duties, (e.g., Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic), into NWCG position standards.
- Identify appropriate processes for handling and storing incident medical records.
- Identify a methodology for consolidating and analyzing I-Suite and other data on injuries and illnesses.
- Provide to the Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) and other NWCG working teams/groups a source of leadership and subject matter expertise for EMS related topics and issues.
- Develop tools that will enhance NWCG members' ability to provide oversight to incident medical units.
- Provide field units, incident management teams, individuals and contractors access to current NWCG EMS information and resources including, but not limited to policies, procedures, and protocols via the internet, workshops, and other means.

The current members of the IEMTG are from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Association of State Foresters and the National Association of State EMS Officials.

Additional information and resource material can be found at: www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/iemtg

Sincerely,



Michelle G. Ryerson
Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Attachment 1 IEMTG Core Membership Listing

Incident Emergency Medical Task Group Core Membership Roster

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