

ENTERPRISE AND GEOGRAPHIC RISK MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE
March 2020

COVID 19: We are confronting a radically changed wildfire response environment with COVID-19 which is challenging all our existing systems and will require a dramatic change in the nation's response to wildfire including:

- Use of modified suppression techniques focusing on aggressive initial attack with the goal of containment; increased dependence on aviation; and maximizing use of local resources.
- Exploration of various scenarios of significant limits to fire personnel capacity and options
- Aggressive social distancing:
 - Implementing social distancing at the module level
 - Expanding quarantine efforts before and after fires
 - No traditional fire camps, emphasis on modular isolation
- Strict limitations on sharing of resources, and increased use of technology
- Extreme vigilance for screening, testing (where available), quarantining, and tracking our firefighters
- Extensive communication and coordination with our workforce, partners, cooperators, and the public.

The urgency of making these changes drives the need for augmented decision support for the developing new variety of response strategies that may need to be developed and can be supported by risk management assistance.

Risk Management Assistance Purpose and Intent: The purpose of Risk Management Assistance is to provide support for line officers, agency administrators and other employees to improve decision quality and accountability. The intent of RMA is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of fire management responses by providing decision makers access to experienced line officers, personnel skilled in risk management and fire operations, and enhanced and emerging fire analytics and research to assist in developing and analyzing alternative fire management strategies that consider risk tradeoffs to highly valued resources and assets.

RMA has been delivered since 2017 by a cadre of people, led by experienced line officers, and are available this year to support Enterprise level decision makers (National Multi-Agency Coordination Group Agency Administrators (AAs)) with the intent to remotely advise, give recommendations, provide enhanced analytics, and tools for overall decision support in consideration of COVID.

Enterprise Risk Management Assistance (ERMA): A national Enterprise Risk Management Assistance cadre working under the direction of the Enterprise Risk Management Team has been established dedicated to provide:

- 1) oversight structure for assessment study teams addressing enterprise mitigation topics associated with actions before, during and after fire events
- 2) enhanced analytics and decision support tools
- 3) support and facilitate development of recommended actions utilizing assessment results
- 4) Geographic Area Risk Management Assistance (GARMA) cadres by GACC, for Agency Administrators and Incident Management Organizations before, during and after fire events. Proposed assistance would be provided from existing rostered RMA experienced staff and the National Line Officer Team (NLOT); including interagency partners.

Risk Management Assistance Roles and Responsibilities				
Team Member	Primary Role	Essential Responsibilities	Key Skills/Qualifications	Comments
Line Lead	POCs for GACC AA's; conduit of related research & applications to Enterprise Risk Team and Executive Leadership and national or geographic level	Convene RMA before, during and after fire events; guide/direct RMA activities in coordination with host unit(s); Report to leadership as needed;	Line Officer; Line officers with multi-jurisdictional responsibilities and Fire & risk management experience	Tap into NLOT members to build out capacity and engagement at GACC level – include interagency line reps
Operations Lead	Interact with IMO and affected units. Coordinate analysis with likely courses of action alternatives. Develop alternative courses of action within reasonable objectives	Gain situational awareness for team Development of Tradeoff Analysis (TOA) of Alternative Courses of Action	Incident command, operations section chief, or fire staff at multi-jurisdictional level	
Lead Analyst	Coordinate and develop strategic analysis, including but not limited to fire behavior, weather, potential operational delineations, aviation, etc.	Strategic vision of innovative application of modeling to support TOA and enhanced decision making.	Long term analysts, solid GIS skills Knowledge of RMA mission.	
Risk	Apply risk process to course of action alternatives and TOA development	Analyze Alternative Courses of Action relative to high values at risk, people, places and things. Identify key threats to values	Multi-jurisdictional Operations or Risk Management Specialist	
Research	Coordinate assessments, research, development and applications for augmenting decision support in coordination with Line Leads	Engage with AAs and IMOs to discern needs from questions and direct research efforts to provide answers to support decision making	Cross-discipline, enterprise level research development and application experience specific to fire and human dynamics	

ERMA Cadre membership (attached illustration):

Line Lead--
 Operations--
 Analytics--
 Risk--
 Research--
 Aviation and Regional Fire Director liaisons

Jane Darnell, Dan Dallas, Jason Kuiken
 Joe Reinarz (w/NIMO Team)/Beth Lund
 Rick Stratton/Tami Parkinson
 Dave Williams/Mike Noel
 Dave Calkin/Sara Brown
 Bob Roth & Greg Morris