



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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NWCG Memorandum No. 14-019

Date: 2 December 2014

TO: NWCG Member Agencies

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Smith".

SUBJECT: Revision of the Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment (RCA)

The Wildfire Risk and Complexity Assessment (RCA) was adopted by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group on December 17, 2013 as a replacement for the Complexity Analysis and the Organizational Needs Assessment.

During the 2014 wildfire season, field personnel recommended revisions to the RCA. The NWCG Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) assessed these recommendations and revised the RCA accordingly. Revisions include:

- Clarification of existing text in some elements to reduce redundancy and simplify instructions;
- Addition of text in the element ratings (i.e. Low, Moderate, and High columns) to clarify rating criteria;
- Replacement of the "N/A" element ratings with "Very Low"; and
- Clarification of existing text in the "Indicators of Incident Complexity" portion of the RCA to address number of firefighters instead of number of resources assigned at the type 5 level, and use of Command and General Staff at the type 4 and type 3 levels.

The revised RCA is posted at: <http://www.nwcg.gov/>. Field personnel should discontinue use of the previous version.

The complete RCA is located in the *Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (PMS 210)*.

An excerpt from the RCA, "Indicators of Incident Complexity," is included in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS 461)* and the *Incident Commander's Organizer (PMS 206)*.

These documents will be updated during their normal revision cycles.

Attachment: Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment