National Fire and Aviation Executive Board

Memorandum

To: **Fire Management**

From: **National Fire and Aviation Executive Board**

Date: **January 25, 2007**

Subject: **Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement**

On January 16, 2007, the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board (NFAEB) approved and recommended the use of the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. The Agreement documents the commitment of the agencies to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds among the signatories to the agreement.

This updated Agreement template includes changes regarding the use Supplemental Fire Suppression and Cost Share Agreements that will serve to clarify cost sharing on fires. Improving the approach to cost sharing on fires has the potential to significantly improve the allocation of costs at the local, State and federal level. Notable changes in the Agreement template include a mandatory requirement to determine a cost share methodology that will be utilized when the placement of a fire affects multiple jurisdictions. The decision to use a particular cost share method from the Master Agreement format will be accompanied by the rationale for that selection. This documentation will be used to assist in defining best practices.

The Agreement will be utilized when it reaches the normal time within the cycle for updating a Geographic Area or state agreement, within the following guidelines:

1. All agreements must be updated within 5 years from the date of this letter,
2. The cost share provisions will be incorporated if it becomes necessary to revise the agreement prior to the normal revision cycle, and
3. The cost share provisions will be incorporated by amendment, if feasible, should the current agreement not address cost sharing.

Attached is the Master Agreement template that is to be used when Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACG's) update their Geographic Area agreement. It is also mandatory for Geographic Areas to develop an Annual Operating Plan that incorporates the cost share issues as outlined in the Agreement template. The Agreement template allows the GACG's to insert appropriate agency information party to the Agreement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Melchert at (208) 387-5887.

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