

USDA Forest Service NIMO Program

September 2010



Spotlight

CI Strategic Risk Assessment

The use of the deliberate risk assessment process influenced change that significantly decreased exposure to firefighters and resulted in cost avoidance of more than \$10MM

Technology Testing

Technology was tested on 3 large fires and 2 prescribed burns, allowing for decreased firefighter exposure and allow for "real time" communication transfer in remote areas.

National Accelerated Training Program (NATP)

Out of 43 participants from all but one Region. Despite the slow fire occurrence this year, more than 51% of participants have had incident training opportunities.

NIMO Staffing

NIMO has had 2 retirements this year; 1 individual who accepted a position as Assistant Fire Director in R8; a individual who is detailing as Assistant Fire Director in R4, as well as a detailer to FAM Assistant Director of Planning and Budget as well as Workforce Planning and Cohesive Strategy.

Primary Contacts

- **NIMO Coordinator**
Robin Cole
- **Atlanta NIMO Team**
George Custer, IC
- **Boise NIMO Team**
Steve Gage, IC
- **Phoenix NIMO Team**
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- **Portland NIMO Team**
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Highlights

The USDA Forest Service NIMO Program has been active since 2006. Some of our most recent contributions to improve Fire and Aviation Management are:

Continuous Improvement (CI): The NIMO program *conducted 18 CI sessions in Regions 1,2,4,5 and 6*. Emphasis of CI this year focused on stakeholder and community relationships and improved decision making by producing a Strategic Risk Assessment (SRA).

Type 3 organization and Type 2 team development: The program conducted training to assist in the development of *8 National Forest Type 3 organizations* and *6 State and local organizations*. They also assisted in the development of *2 State sponsored Type 2 teams*.

Virtual Staff Rides and CI Google Earth based exercises: Providing line and fire an opportunity to jointly discuss lessons learned and potential alternatives in the event of a large fire is key to better decision making. The NIMO program *conducted more than 20 exercises to National, Regional and Forest level staff* including non CI areas and IMTs.

The National Accelerated Training Program (NATP): To provide a more streamlined system to feed additional qualified personnel to help support the national IMT's; NIMO developed NATP. This program focused on accelerated individual development and incident training over a 120 day period of time. There were *43 participants* representing all Regions' but one. The program was widely supported by the Regions and other national IMTs.

NIMO Assignments: Despite the slow year in large fire activity, the NIMO teams have had *3 fire assignments* in Colorado, Oregon and Idaho. By request of line officers, the teams have provided assistance in the development of a Strategic Risk Assessment (SRA) and/or leadership coaching on 6 other fires.

NIMO has also had specialized assignments including R2 Bark Beetle Incident, and the WO Station Fire Analysis as well as Deepwater Horizon Organizational Coordination.

Technology Testing: Work was done in conjunction with Missoula Technology Development Center (MTDC) to demonstrate the viability of asset tracking for real time mapping and situational awareness; set up web-cameras for public and responders to monitor fires; and test the use of portable, solar powered satellite internet connection to maintain communication and transfer documents with remote spike camps.

Other key Accomplishments:

- Working with Lessons Learned Center in the development of standardized protocols of Joint Information Systems and Joint Information Center training.
- Taught more than seven different 400 and 500 level leadership and incident qualification courses, including training with other USDA agencies (APHIS) to develop IMT capability.
- Worked with DOI in the development of a Senior Executive exercise for fire coordination and engagement at the Washington level.
- Developed a 215A Risk Management process for IMTs to use, and a draft Risk Mitigation matrix for line officers.
- By request, conducted an assessment of the Southwest Area training program.
- Facilitated a discussion and development of a plan for Northern Arizona Smoke Management.
- Participated in a research project with the Northern Station and NC State University to determine methodologies in improving incident communications.