



Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project (IDIP) Dispatch Center Manager/Assistant Center Manager Delegation of Authority

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Problem Statement

Dispatch Center Managers (CM) manage interagency centers. Policy and direction of different federal, state, and local agencies are inconsistent. CMs are operating without a delegation of authority, or one that does not provide “an adequate level of operational authority from all participating agencies” as required in the 2016 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book) p. 344 and supported by FSM 1237.03(2) and DOI Directive 1203.

Key Points

- Chapter 19 of the Red Book, “All Dispatch/Coordination CMs shall have a signed Delegation of Authority providing an adequate level of operational authority from all participating agencies. The Delegation of Authority will include appropriate supervisory authority, and a process for completion of employee performance evaluations.” (p.344).
- Regulations and policies for agencies participating in an interagency dispatch center vary. The use of a delegation of authority template will ensure agency administrators consider all aspects that are required for a CM to have “adequate supervisory authority” while following agency-specific regulations and policies.

Recommended Steps to Implement Resolution

- The IDIP Team has developed delegation of authority templates for center managers and assistant center managers.
- The delegation of authority template will be placed in the Interagency Dispatch Operating Guide as a reference for the governing body to develop the specific delegation of authority for their centers.
- Recommend all interagency dispatch center managers have a delegation of authority in place by May 1, 2017, and assistant centers managers in place by May 15th, 2017.
- National Coordination System Committee under National Wildfire Coordination Group will provide annual review and update template content as appropriate.

Benefits to Implementation

- Use of the template will ensure that CMs have “appropriate supervisory authority” (Red Book p. 344).
- A delegation of authority for CM will ensure that an interagency center is operating within agency-specific rules and regulations on behalf of the governing body.
- A delegation of authority from the CM to the ACM will ensure continuity of operations during short and long term absences of the CM.

Additional Information

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